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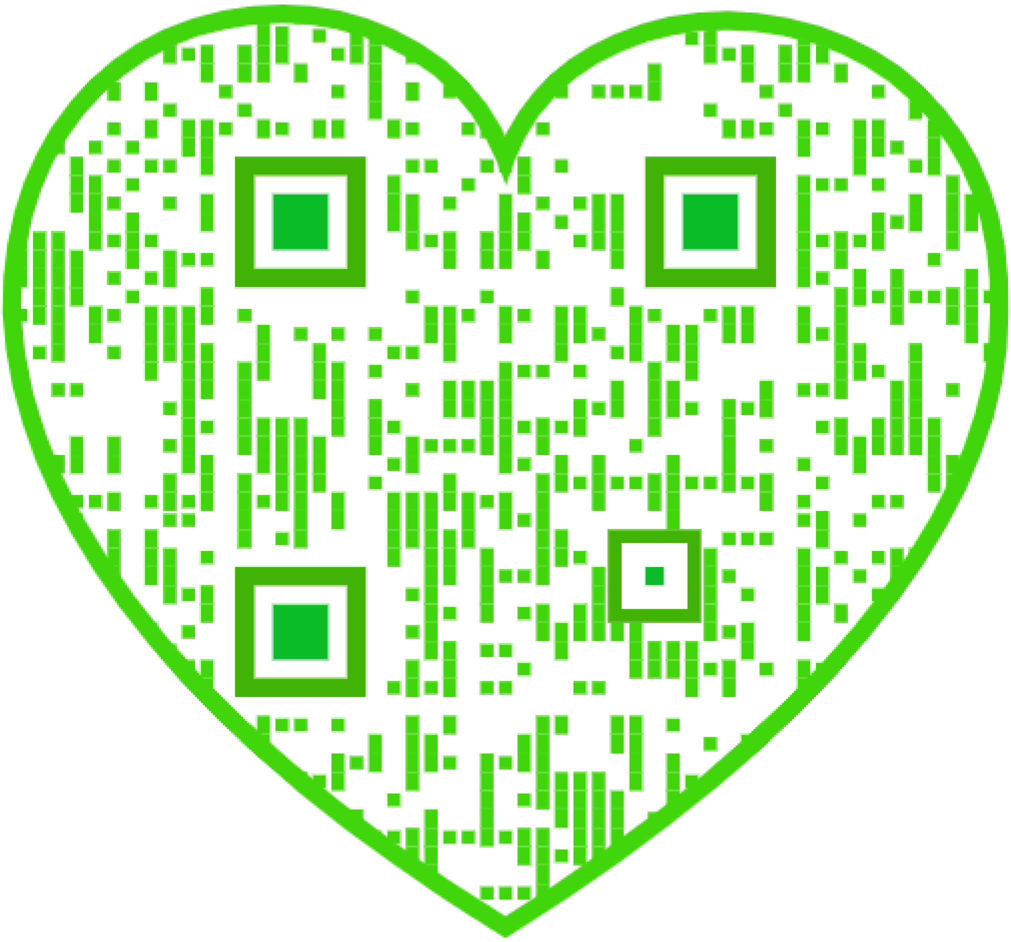

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>
> – SOPHIE WILSON, HOUSE & GARDEN STYLIST

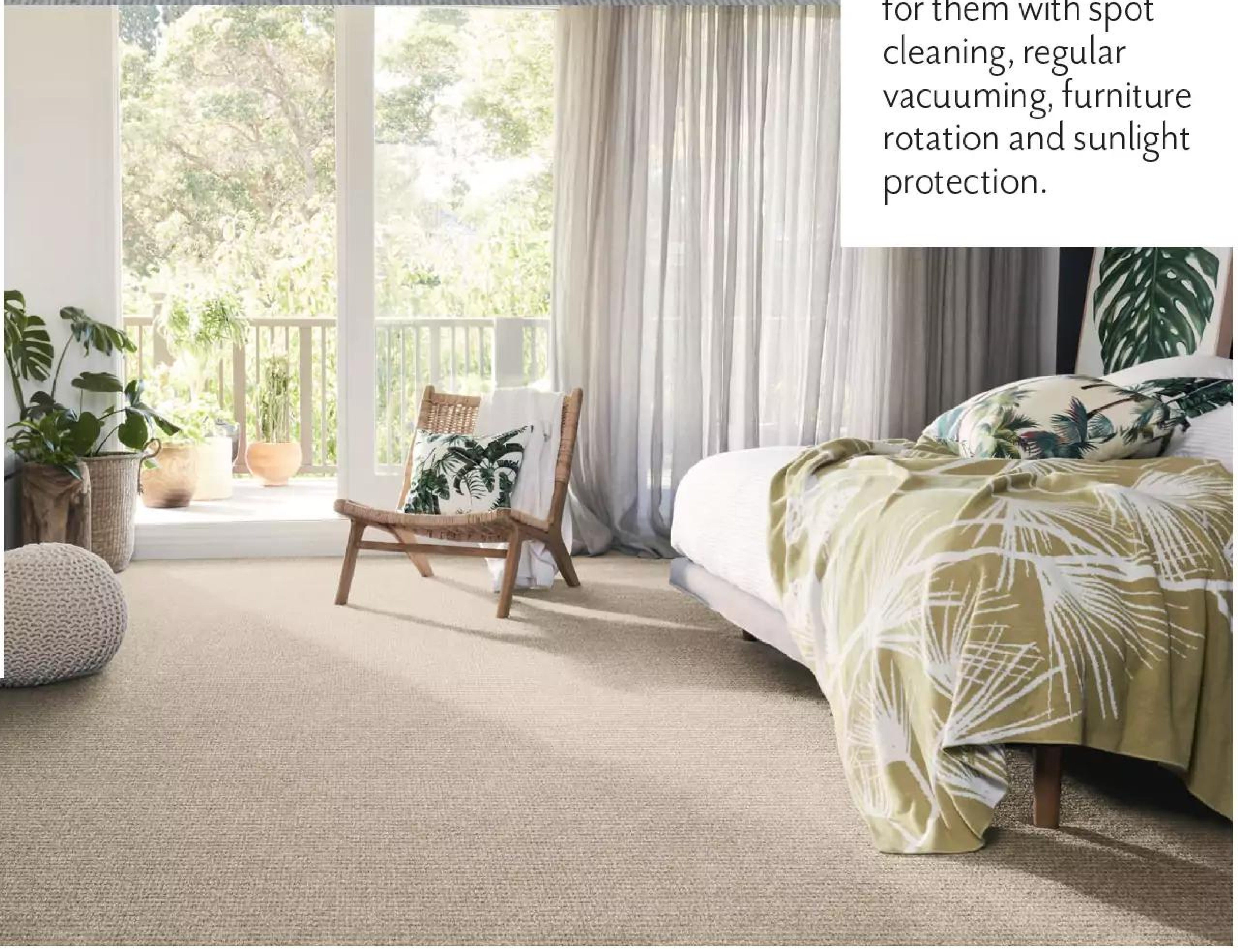
THINGS TO CONSIDER

Top tips for selecting carpet.

Style There's a variety of wool carpets to suit any space, from plain to textured, twist pile, loop pile and plush. Take your lifestyle and interior scheme into account when choosing a style.

Colour Lighter shades are an elegant option but can require more maintenance. If your home sees plenty of foot traffic, consider mid-tone neutrals or darker designs to disguise wear.

Maintenance While wool carpets are naturally stain-resistant and easy to clean, care for them with spot cleaning, regular vacuuming, furniture rotation and sunlight protection.



Clockwise from top right 'Natural Formations' **carpet** in Swan Rocks. 'Outback Spirit' **carpet** in Simpson. 'Sandy Ridge' **carpet** in Gum Tree. All from carpetcourt.com.au.

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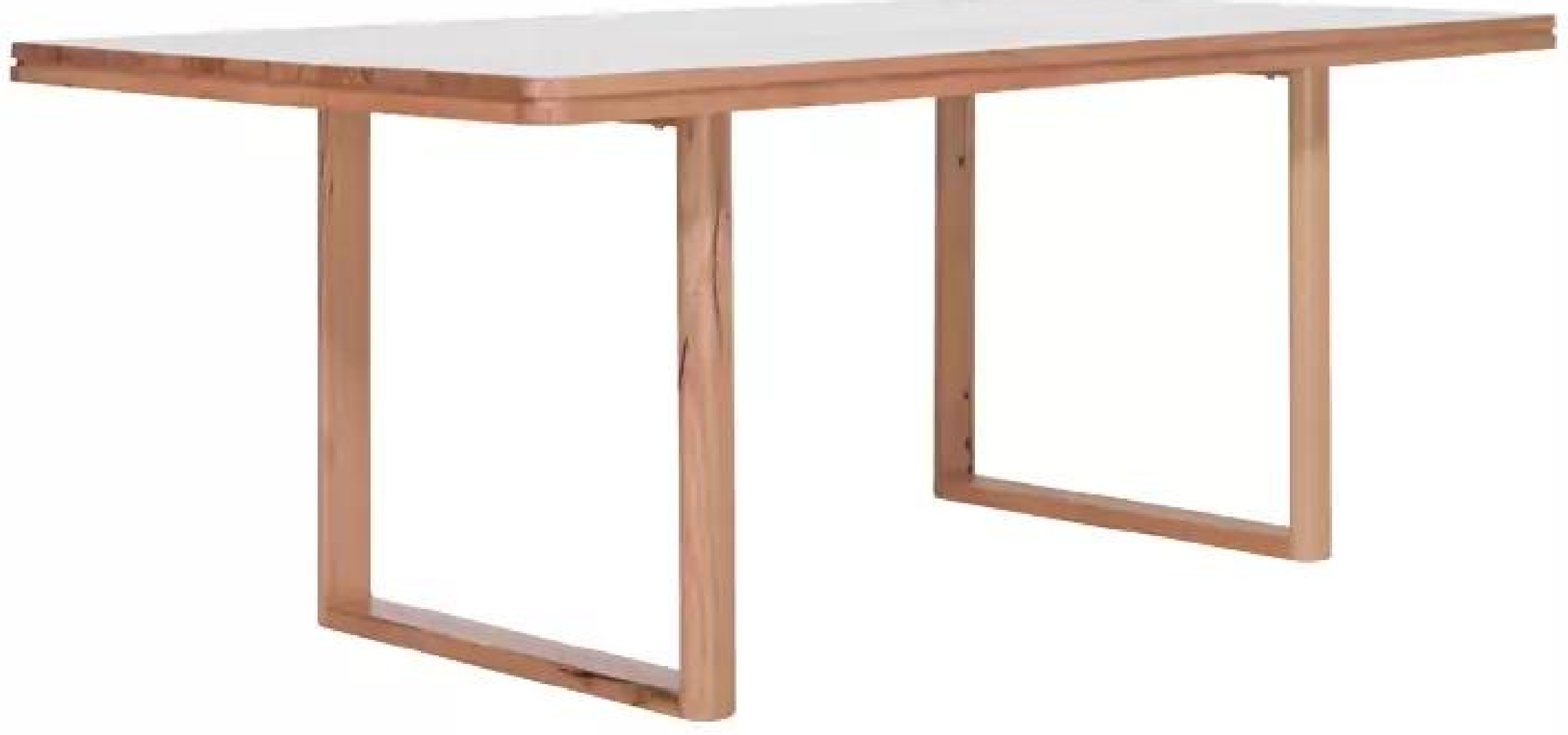
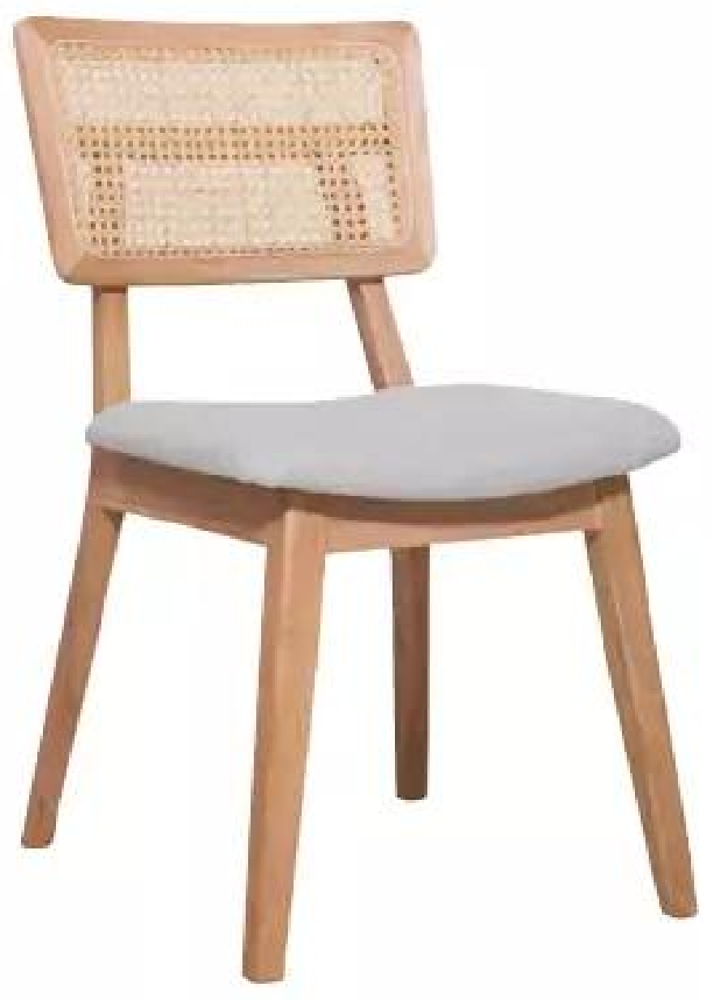
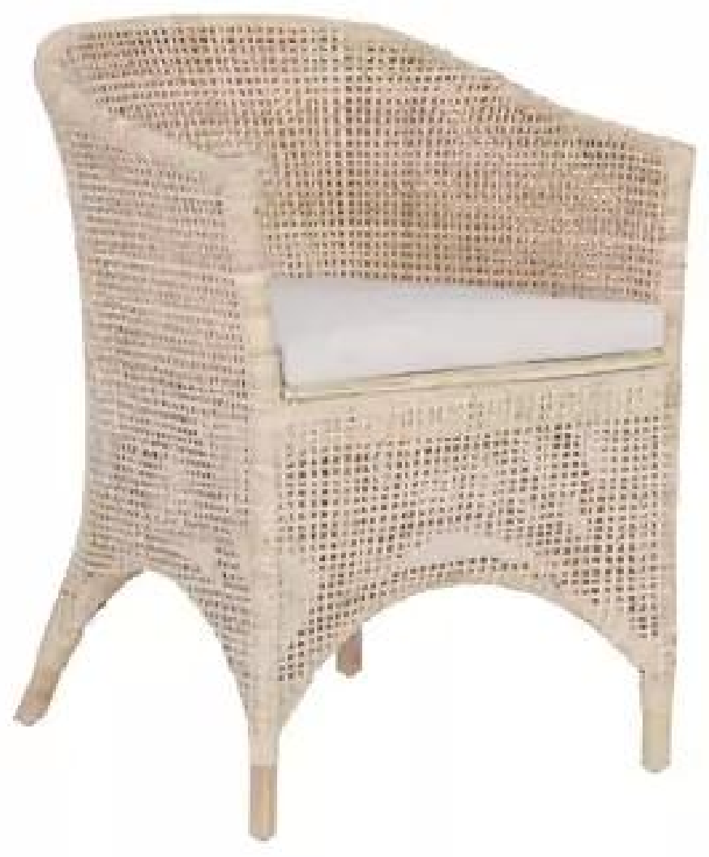
Whether using a rectangle or round dining table, we love the look of rattan chairs complementing a beautiful timber table. The intricate weaving of rattan provides visual interest while ensuring comfort for you and your guests. A bright pop of greenery is the perfect finishing touch to complete your table setting with style.



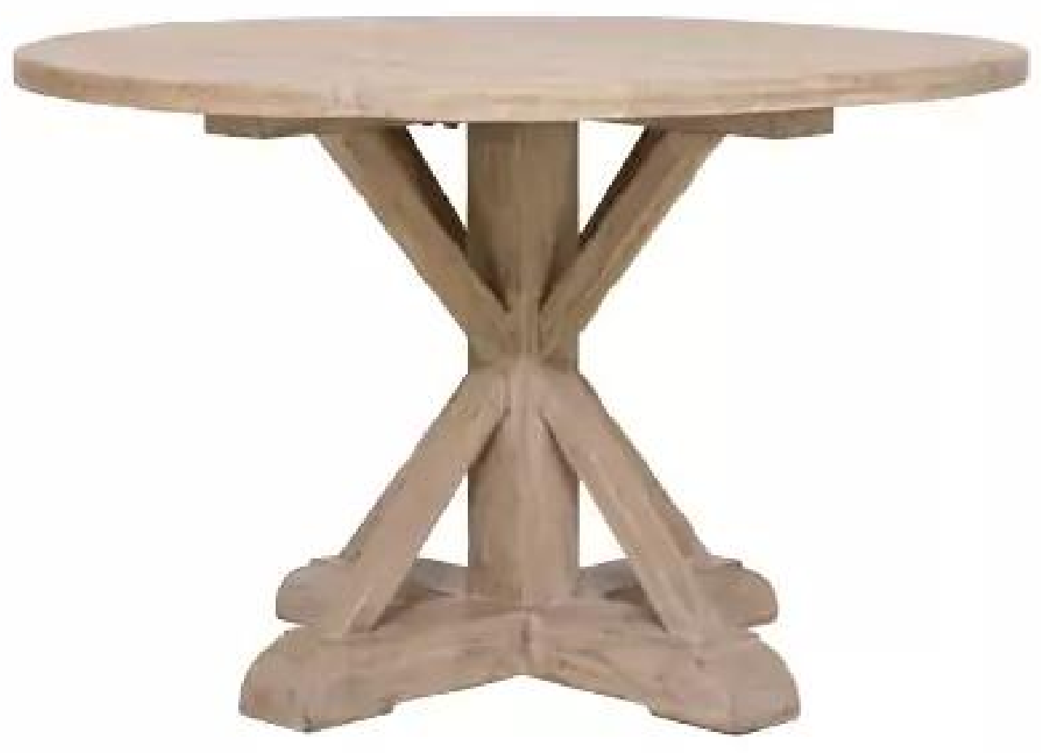
ALVAREZ DINING TABLE
in Australian messmate



MATTA DINING CHAIR
in City Beige / Clear



SKYLAR DINING CHAIR
in rattan natural



ROYAL ROUND DINING TABLE
in Reclaimed Elm

KETCH OUTDOOR COLLECTION
DESIGN JEAN-MARIE MASSAUD

SYDNEY I MELBOURNE
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Welcome to Our Table

APRIL

Photograph by Timothy Kaye. Interiors by Tecture.

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On our cover
A beautiful table setting styled by Sophie Wilson and photographed by Alanda Landsberry graces the cover of this month's issue. For details, turn to page 49.

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For our readers

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We have met lots of readers during this fun, busy year. I have had the pleasure of a few trips to Melbourne, a visit to Brisbane and to Perth. We've been collaborating with brands and designers, and it's been illuminating to talk to our readers countrywide and enjoy the shopping, dining and design precincts throughout. We went to the Australian Open with Ralph Lauren; hosted talks for Steve Cordony's gorgeous book *Moments At Home* at Fanuli in Sydney and Melbourne, and presented a Q&A with Steve at a Supper Club in Perth with The Montauk Lighting Co. At Winnings Taren Point we hosted a lively panel discussion with kitchen experts including designers Emma Buchan, Anna-Carin McNamara and Brett Mickan, Little Black Book aficionados Melissa Penfold and Isabella Walker-Smith, and, coming from a delicious entertaining perspective, our food editor Amanda Cordony.

What unites our readers, wherever they live or however they engage with us, is a passion great design, and we feel that running through our pages like a barometer of Australian demographics. The flexibility for multigenerational living is on many briefs. Downsizing or sidesizing is a big trend, and I have particular admiration for downsizing older couples who focus on good design by using a long term vision when planning (see page 168). In many cases, this forward thinking is better than our national infrastructure blueprints! Increasingly, families are thinking about how long their children will be at home or if they might need to come back, whether they will be sharing childcare arrangements for their grandchildren and ensuring that spaces are designed to accommodate everyone happily. I love a contemporisation of a heritage building – a favourite hotel is Perth's Como The Treasury. In this issue we see some brilliant reimaginings of older houses. Firstly on page 78, a Federation home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs on a corner block has been subtly supersized to accommodate the needs of a growing family; and on page 92, a gorgeous Queenslander – my favourite kind of house – has been turned into an inviting urban metropolis for a couple coming back to town after raising their children in the suburbs. Acclaimed architect Matt Gibson brings his vision to a historic terrace in Melbourne, transforming it into a multi-generational forever home with a clever use of brick, page 104. Speaking of brick, head to page 34 to see what architects Madeleine Blanchfield, Kitty Lee and Matt voted as Brick of the Year.

As always, the issue is content-rich, including a delicious Easter feast by The Cordony Kitchen, page 60. And we have new pages from our resident stylist: Stylescape with Sophie Wilson, see page 42. Sophie has great taste and we know you will enjoy her pages. And if you are planning an Easter overhaul, turn to page 68 for Melissa and Isabella's top advice for sourcing paint and wallpaper!

Tanya Buchanan

Tanya Buchanan, Editor-in-Chief

Tanya's photograph by Kristina Šoljo. Hair and make-up by Sam Powell.
Tanya wears Oroton blazer and Dissh white linen vest and pants.

EDITOR'S TOP PICKS

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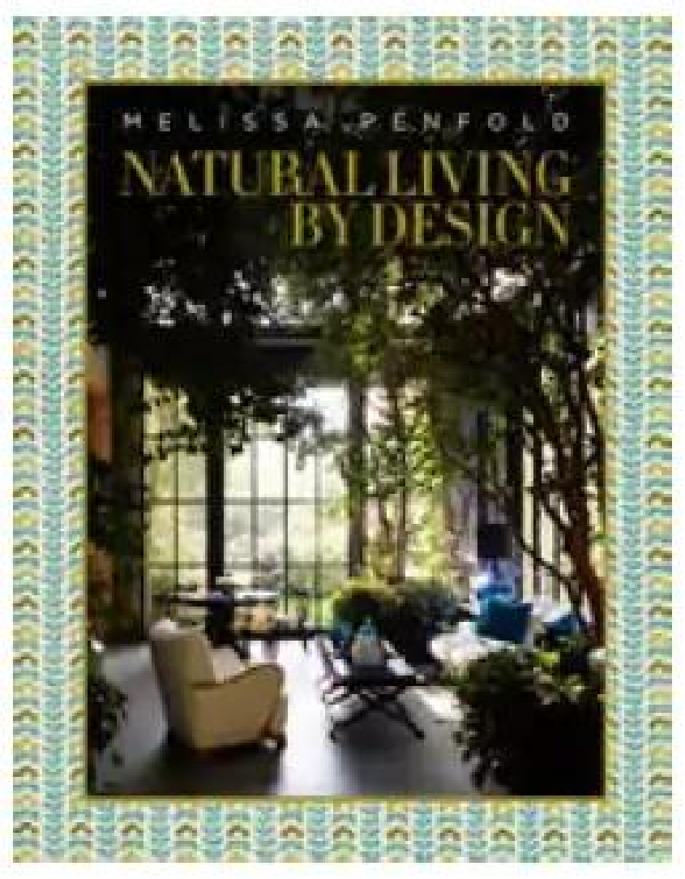

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WISH LIST

1 'Altaïr' classic perfumed **candle**, $169/270g, Trudon. **2** 'Lituus' **vase**, $215/ medium, Georg Jensen. **3** 'Breezy' recycled wool **throw** in Lake, Waverley Mills. **4** 'Marco' **footed bowl** in Nude, $149, Domayne. **5** *Living Well by Design* **book** by Melissa Penfold, $70, Vendome Press.

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Our posts that made your month.

Collette Dinnigan's Bowral house tour won hearts on Instagram, a colourful home by architect Adam Haddow was popular on Pinterest, and the former Swiss villa home of Audrey Hepburn gathered Facebook clicks.

Facebook facebook.com/australianhouseandgarden
Highlights from each issue plus links to tours of our favourite homes.

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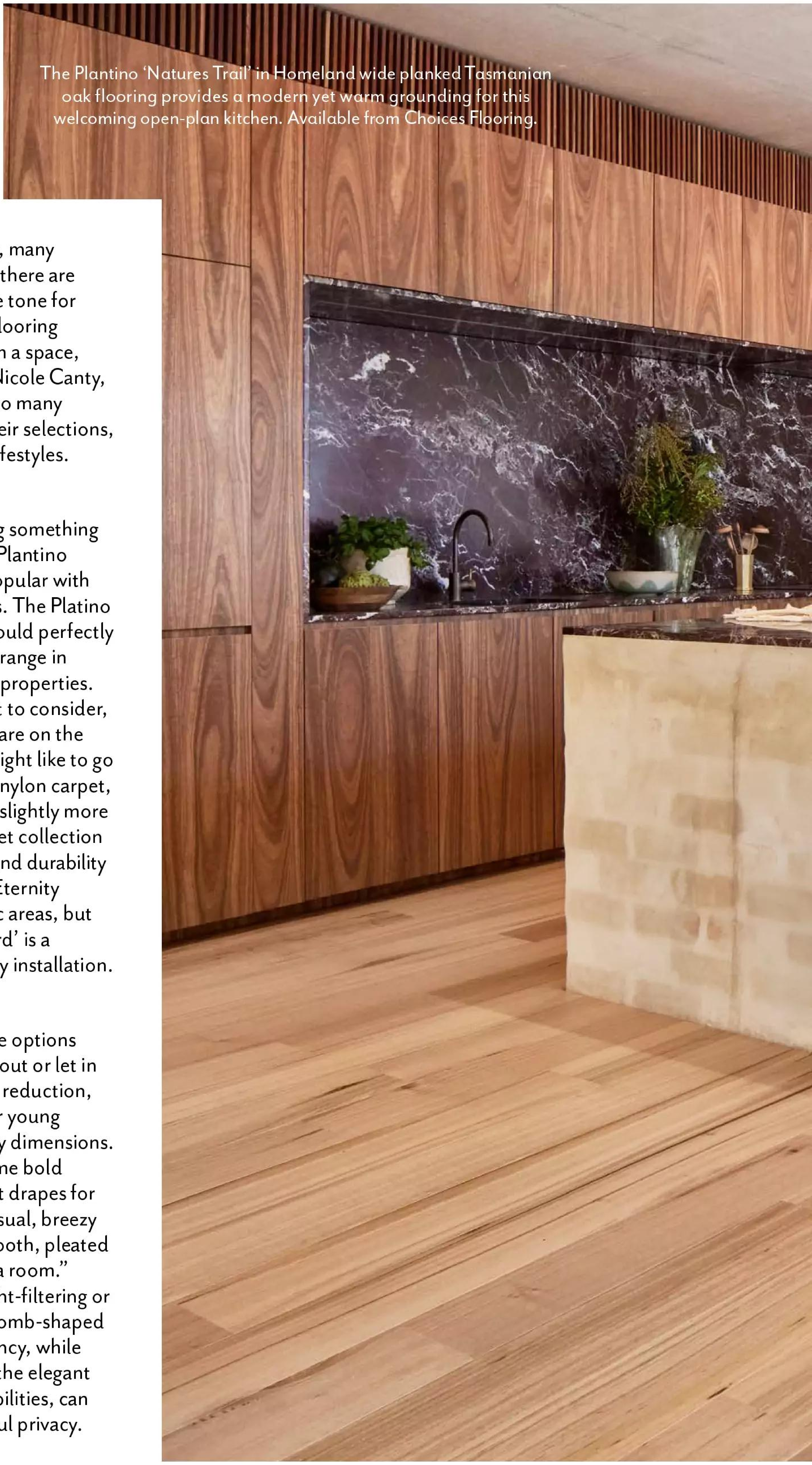


The Plantino 'Natures Trail' in Homeland wide planked Tasmanian oak flooring provides a modern yet warm grounding for this welcoming open-plan kitchen. Available from Choices Flooring.

When designing a new home or renovating, many choices require careful deliberation, but there are two key elements that particularly set the tone for the home: flooring and window treatments. "Both flooring and window treatments have the power to transform a space, influencing its mood, style and functionality," says Nicole Canty, product manager at Choices Flooring. In fact, with so many versatile options, homeowners can have fun with their selections, making bold choices to suit their personalities and lifestyles.

BEST-LAID PLANS

Starting with flooring, Nicole recommends choosing something to complement the overall style of your home. The Plantino engineered oak ranges from Choices Flooring are popular with interior designers for their palette and natural grains. The Platino 'Natures Trail' Blackbutt floorboards in Bleached would perfectly complement coastal interiors, while the 'Wynmark' range in Praline Oak would work beautifully in country style properties.

Of course, function and practicality are important to consider, too. Families with asthma and allergy sufferers who are on the hunt for a stain-resistant, sound absorbing carpet might like to go for a practical choice, such as the Brease 'Crestone' nylon carpet, which comes in a range of sleek neutral tones. For a slightly more luxurious feel under foot, the Illoura 'Landore' carpet collection is 100 per cent New Zealand wool, bringing warmth and durability to a room. Or for an affordable, durable selection, Eternity 'Arista' carpet is an economic choice. For high-traffic areas, but still ticking the designer look, the Genero 'Longboard' is a hardwearing, easy-to-clean vinyl plank made for easy installation.

BEST-DRESSED WINDOWS

As for window treatments, you can narrow down the options depending on your needs. There are styles to block out or let in the light, options for temperature control and noise reduction, manual or motorised functions, cordless options for young children, as well as custom solutions to fit with tricky dimensions.

"Window treatments can either blend in or become bold statements" Nicole says. "Try luxurious silk or velvet drapes for a sense of elegance, or linen or cotton for a more casual, breezy vibe. Consider the texture of the fabric as well – smooth, pleated or woven treatments can add depth and interest to a room."

For example, the Norman 'Honeycomb' sheer, light-filtering or room-darkening shades are designed with a honeycomb-shaped structure for improved insulation and energy efficiency, while the sleek design works well with many interiors. Or the elegant 'PerfectSheer', with light-filtering or blockout capabilities, can be rolled up to allow in a breeze or down for peaceful privacy.

Choices Flooring: *choicesflooring.com.au.* **H&G**

HOW TO SELECT FLOORING

START WITH STYLE
Consider the architecture and interior style of your home, then decide what style of flooring will best complement the aesthetic. For example, consider minimal floorboards in contemporary living spaces and plush carpets in classic, heritage-style bedrooms.

COLOUR CHOICE
"Lighter floors can make a space feel larger and more open, while darker floors create a cosy, intimate feel," Nicole says.

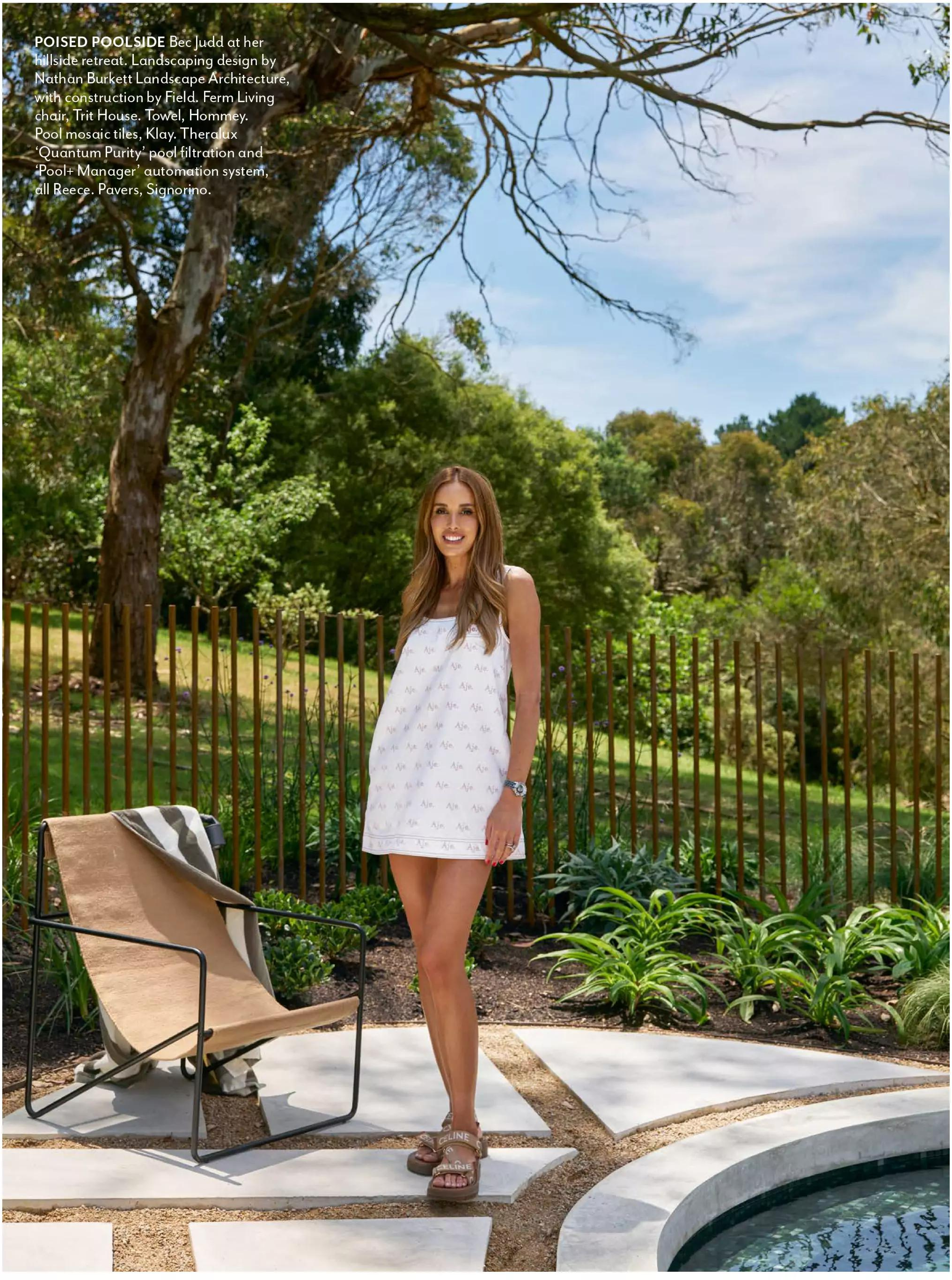
PRACTICAL MATTERS
"High-traffic areas like hallways and living rooms require more durable materials, such as luxury vinyl planks or laminate, while softer materials like carpet may be better in bedrooms or theatre rooms," Nicole says. "If you have pets or children, you'll need flooring that's resistant to scratches, stains and spills."

Ask an expert

A CONSIDERED CHOICE

Whether opting for a bold statement or classic neutrals, it's worth researching key design elements. Choices Flooring shares their top tips.

STORY *Stephanie Hope* | STYLING *Sami Johnson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Chris Daile*


POISED POOLSIDE Bec Judd at her hillside retreat. Landscaping design by Nathan Burkett Landscape Architecture, with construction by Field. Ferm Living chair, Trit House. Towel, Hommey. Pool mosaic tiles, Klay. Theralux 'Quantum Purity' pool filtration and 'Pool+ Manager' automation system, all Reece. Pavers, Signorino.

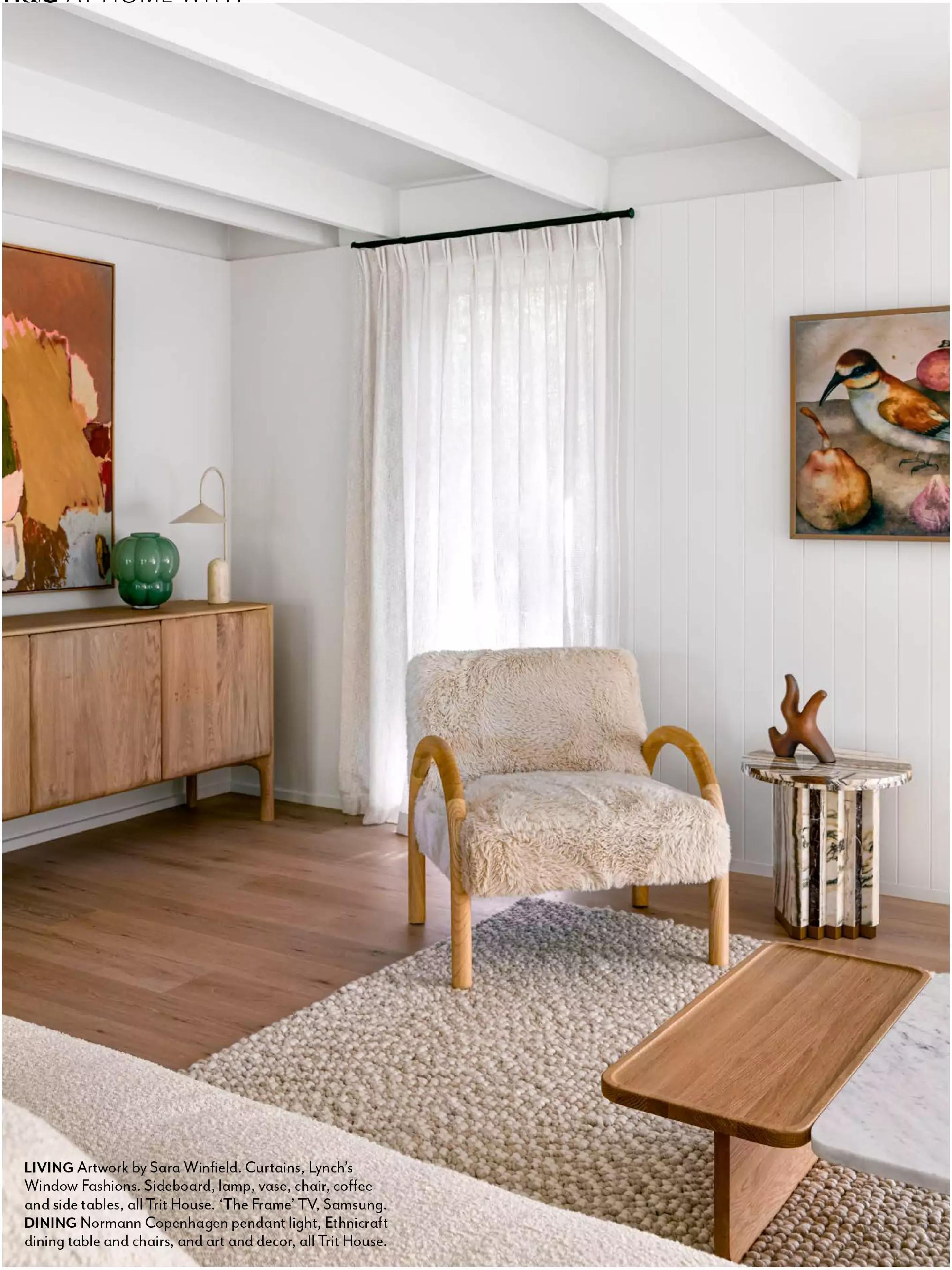
Country CHARM

Interior design lover and entrepreneur Bec Judd elevates a humble Mornington Peninsula weekender into a contemporary rural retreat.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jack Lovel*

“The oak gives it that earthy, rustic feel while still looking sleek and modern.” BEC JUDD, OWNER

KITCHEN Joinery in Elton Group Eveneer Romano timber veneer, The Melbourne Joiner. Benchtop and splashback in Patagonia quartzite, Signorino. Sussex 'Scala' sink mixer and Memo 'Zenna' sink, both Reece. Door, Steel Window Design. Bar stools, art and vase, all Trit House. Sanremo coffee machine, Coffee Machine Emporium. European oak flooring in Smokey Grey, Woodcut.



LIVING Artwork by Sara Winfield. Curtains, Lynch's Window Fashions. Sideboard, lamp, vase, chair, coffee and side tables, all Trit House. 'The Frame' TV, Samsung. **DINING** Normann Copenhagen pendant light, Ethnicraft dining table and chairs, and art and decor, all Trit House.

> "It's all about creating a balance between functionality, comfort and timeless country charm."
>
> BEC JUDD, OWNER

Bec Judd's latest interior project is a triumph. The TV presenter, business co-founder and brand ambassador has created a stylish weekender on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. It has been an alluring rural retreat for Bec, her husband, former AFL player Chris Judd, and their four children, Oscar, Billie and twins Tom and Darcy.

Thanks to a glamorous makeover, the property provides a stunning escape from city life. But the renovation has been a long time in the making. The couple bought the property in 2016. On a quiet country road, perched on a hill with a spring-fed dam and soaring eucalypts, the appeal was immediately obvious as a playground for the couple and their growing family. "It was on three hectares, with rolling hills and two beautiful lakes," says Bec, recalling an ambience of "incredible serenity".

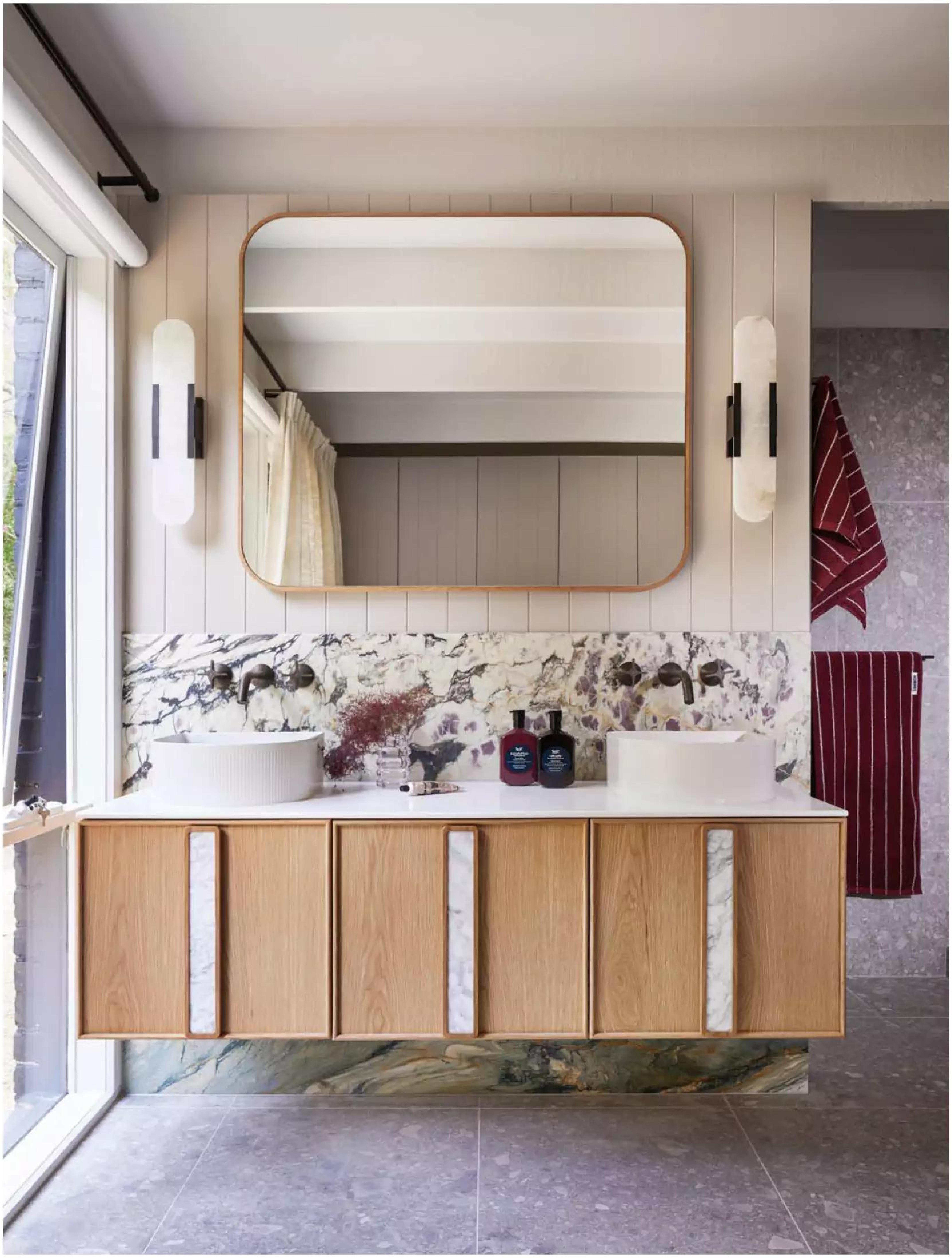
"We felt we were deep in the countryside, even though it's only an hour's drive from our Melbourne home."

However, the 1970s flat-roofed brick bungalow was less enticing. "The interior was dark and cold, with slate tiles, brown tones and a dated feel," she says. "It needed a complete overhaul to open it up, let in more light and modernise it. With the right changes, we knew it could become a bright, functional space for our family."

The arrival of the twins and Bec's busy career sidelined any reno plans. Early last year, however, she returned to the metaphorical drawing board, redesigning the four-bedroom home with the help of builder The Melbourne Builder & Co.

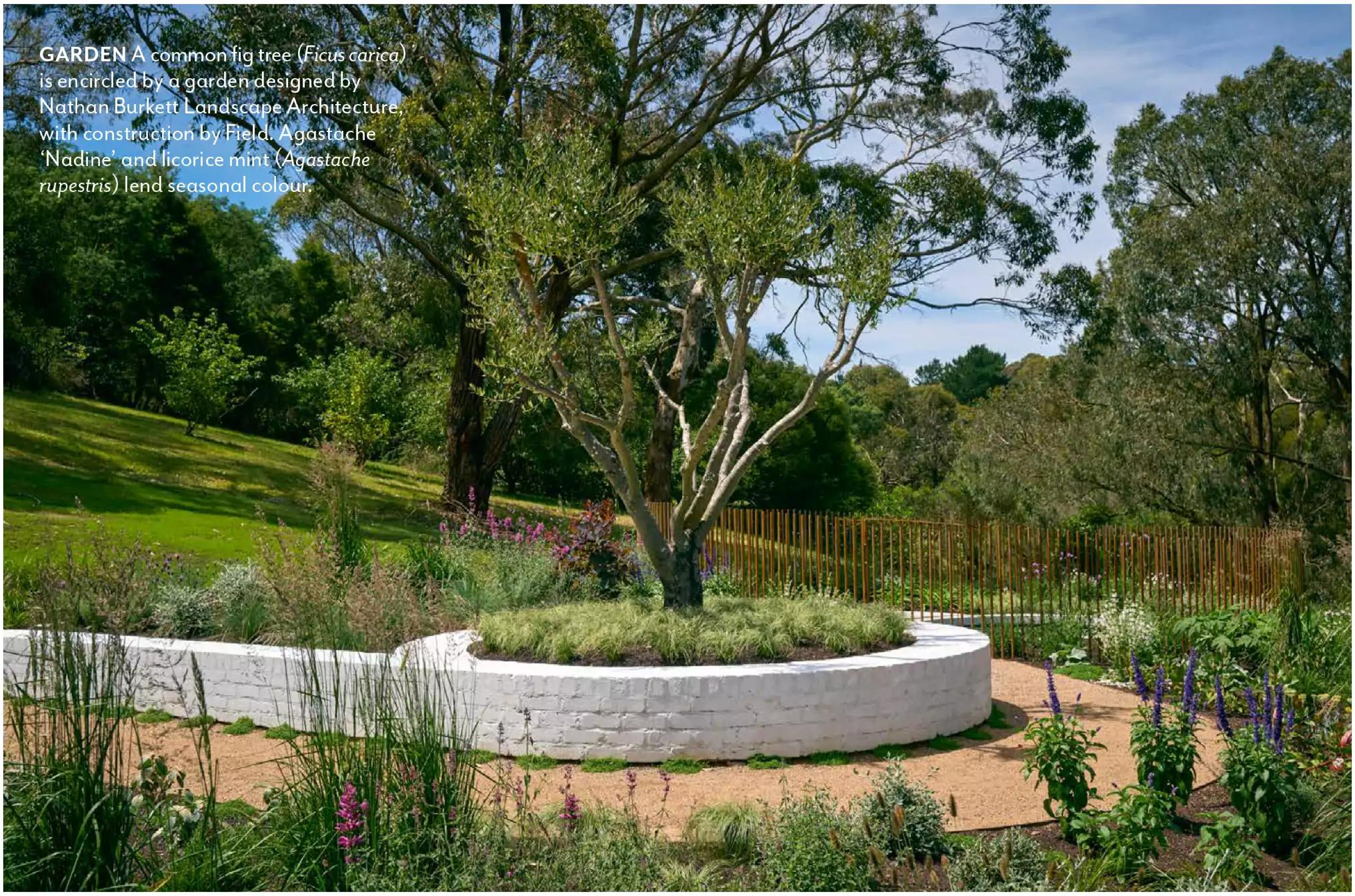
"We envisioned the lounge, dining and kitchen as one large, open space that would flow seamlessly to an outdoor lounge, creating two distinct living areas," says Bec. The overall look would blend rural warmth with contemporary style, "a relaxed, welcoming country ranch feel grounded in natural materials, with a modern twist."

Within the footprint, she remodelled every room, the biggest structural change being to knock down a bedroom wall to form a generous and airy living area. ▶



Bathroom styling by Bree Banfield. Bathroom photograph by Armelle Habib.

BATHROOM "I visited my local Reece Bathroom Life store while we were in the planning phase to select all our bathroom, laundry and kitchen hardware, and fell in love with the Issy 'Adorn' by Zuster vanity in American oak [with Glacier White benchtop and Carrara marble detailing] that perfectly tied in with the natural aesthetic of the home," says Bec. Splashback in Breccia Capraia stone, and Side Stone porcelain floor tiles in Cluster Mid, all Signorino. Milli 'Oria Cross' tapware in Brushed Gunmetal, and Laufen 'Sonar' basins, all Reece. Towel, Hommey. **BEDROOM** Curtains, Lynch's Window Fashions. Pendant light, bed, bedside table and vase, all Trit House. Bed linen, Hommey. Floors, Carpet World.



GARDEN A common fig tree (*Ficus carica*) is encircled by a garden designed by Nathan Burkett Landscape Architecture, with construction by Field. Agastache 'Nadine' and licorice mint (*Agastache rupestris*) lend seasonal colour.

To compensate, an existing bedroom was upscaled to accommodate six kids, with two sets of bunks and trundles.

The main ensuite was also expanded by knocking down a wall, turning it into a luxurious retreat, thanks to smart fittings from Reece. These included an elegant Issy vanity in an American oak finish, "it perfectly tied in with the natural aesthetic of the home", and Milli 'Oria Cross' tapware. "I love the cross design because it has a bit of a traditional feel, which suited the style of the house. The gunmetal finish ties everything together."

The oak selection continues throughout the home in the form of the joinery and flooring, adding warmth and unity. "The oak gives it that earthy, rustic feel while still looking sleek and modern," says Bec.

The lavish kitchen is the proverbial hub. One of her must-haves was a benchtop in Patagonia quartzite with dramatic striations of rust and ochre. "It is very bold and helps to elevate a warm, neutral palette," she says. The island's legs are a nod to traditional country style, while the white walls paired with rich oak bring light and warmth, "making the space feel cosy and inviting, like a big hug. It's all about creating a balance between functionality, comfort and timeless country charm," she says.

White VJ ceilings, exposed beams and the lightly rendered bricks in the main bedroom, all in a white and sandy palette, are perfectly suited to the country ambience with a twist.

The other pièce de resistance is the covered alfresco entertaining area. Its VJ and beamed ceiling echoes the interior, creating a flow that's enhanced, visually and functionally, by walls of sliders. Its bells and whistles include an over-sized TV, barbecue, dining area and fireplace, which makes it a magnet for all-seasons entertaining. But it also has an emotional connection for Bec. "It gives me the feels with its serene perspective," she says.

The alfresco area flows through to a garden by Nathan Burkett Landscape Architecture. It celebrates curves, with its centrepiece a three-metre round pool. "We chose a fresh green tile from Klay for the pool, which complements the surrounding greenery and native gums," says Bec. The pool, in turn, is echoed in a circular, white brick, raised garden bed finished with an olive tree, together with meandering aggregate paths and beds, creating a real sense of place. "Nathan incorporated the natural curves of the land, the rolling hills that lead down to the lakes, into his design," says Bec.

And what does she plan next for the country hideaway? As *H&G* went to press, Bec had listed the property for sale, so another fortunate owner will soon enjoy her handiwork. Watch this space. ▶

Bec Judd: *@becjudd.* ***The Melbourne Builder & Co:*** *themelbournebuilder.com.au.* ***Nathan Burkett Landscape Architecture:*** *nathanburkett.com.au.*

> “Nathan incorporated the natural curves of the land into his landscape design.” BEC JUDD, OWNER

LIFE & STYLE

Style maven Bec Judd shares some of her favourite things.

1

BYREDO
MOJAVE GHOST
EAU DE PARFUM

2

3

6

diptyque
AMBRE

7

4

5

> "BEAUTIFUL CANDLES, FRESH FLOWERS AND FRENCH LINEN ARE MUSTS."

MY FIRST HOME WAS… with my husband in Prahran, Victoria, after arriving from Perth in my twenties. It was a four-bedroom, modern townhouse and we always had visitors staying. It was a cool first home for a young couple.

I LOVE TO COOK… My go-to family meal is roast chicken stuffed with pesto, teamed with crunchy potatoes and a salad.

FAVOURITE SCENT? Byredo Mojave Ghost (1) and Rose Of No Man's Land. I have all their fragrances – I am having a Byredo moment!

MY MOST TREASURED HOMEWARES? My big Country Road serving platters, my Diptyque candles (7) and I am obsessed with my Abode bed linen – so soft and beautiful. I never swap it out. If I have to wash it, I dry it the same on the same day and put it back on the bed.

MY BIGGEST HOMEWARES SPLURGE… Beautiful candles, fresh flowers and French linen are musts. But my real splash was two Fritz Hansen 'Ro' chairs (3) in the good front room of my home. I love their gorgeous shape – and they are very boujee.

THE WARDROBE ITEM I CAN'T BE WITHOUT? My cream oversized John Elliott Hemi blazer. It goes with everything.

MY FAVOURITE INTERIOR COLOUR PALETTE? This changes over time, but at the moment, it's neutrals with brown tones, including tiramisu, chocolates and nude-beiges.

MY DREAM HOLIDAY DESTINATION? Paris is the most beautiful for a romantic getaway (4), but Dubai is best for a family vacation or, closer to home, Broome in winter (2).

I LOVE LISTENING TO… Dom Dolla, Fred again.., or throwbacks Talking Heads and INXS – they are my four faves right now.

I LOVE A VASE FULL OF… peonies (6) and smokebush in summer. I love their rich burgundy flowers in all my arrangements.

THE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT I VISIT THE MOST? Swedish fashion model Elsa Hosk, @hoskelsa. I love her fashion label, Helsa, and get lots of inspiration from the way she dresses.

MY DREAM CAR? I have always been a Range Rover girl (5). The new seven-seat Range Rover is like driving on a cloud.

MY NEXT MAJOR PURCHASE WILL BE… my next home reno, a small house – I love flipping houses and I aim to do one every 18 months. **H&G**

Photography by Getty Images (2, 4, 6).

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BRICK IS BEST

Brickworks' Brick of the Year celebrates a standout material that reflects the evolving landscape of Australian architecture and enduring design.

STORY *Debbie Duncan*

Brickworks offers an extensive range of more than 850 bricks across several brands, each offering its own unique aesthetic and craftsmanship. The three frontrunners in this year's awards hail from three different brands within the Brickworks portfolio, signifying the breadth of the designs on offer and the clever versatility of this humble building material. *And the winner is...*

Photography courtesy of Brickworks and (opposite) by Christopher Frederick Jones. Architecture (opposite) by ThomsonAdsett.

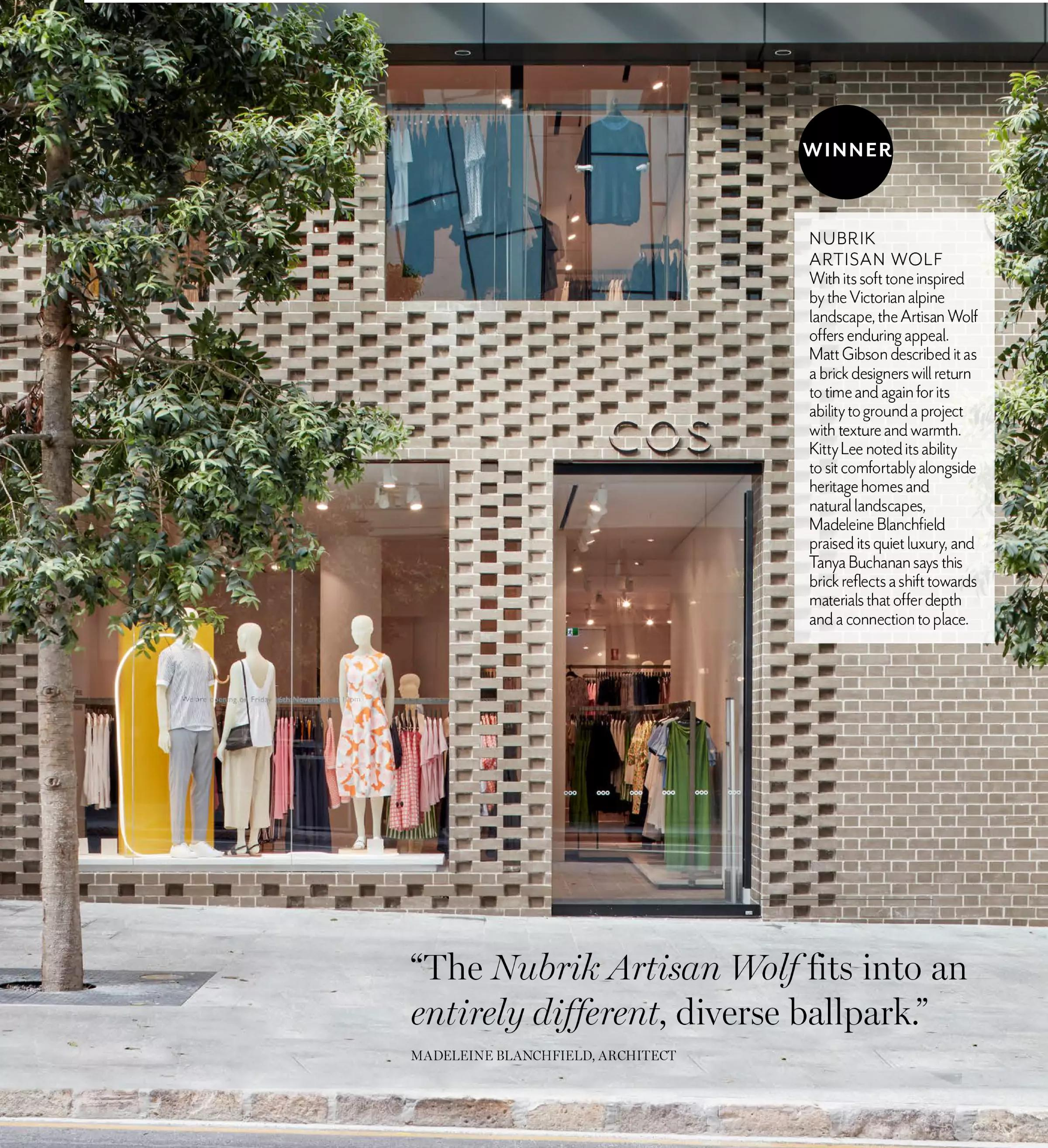
THE PANEL

MADELEINE BLANCHFIELD
Madeleine Blanchfield Architects

KITTY LEE
Kitty Lee Architecture

MATT GIBSON
Matt Gibson Architecture + Design

TANYA BUCHANAN
Editor-in-chief, Australian House & Garden



WINNER

NUBRIK ARTISAN WOLF

With its soft tone inspired by the Victorian alpine landscape, the Artisan Wolf offers enduring appeal. Matt Gibson described it as a brick designers will return to time and again for its ability to ground a project with texture and warmth. Kitty Lee noted its ability to sit comfortably alongside heritage homes and natural landscapes, Madeleine Blanchfield praised its quiet luxury, and Tanya Buchanan says this brick reflects a shift towards materials that offer depth and a connection to place.

> "The *Nubrik Artisan Wolf* fits into an *entirely different*, diverse ballpark."
>
> MADELEINE BLANCHFIELD, ARCHITECT

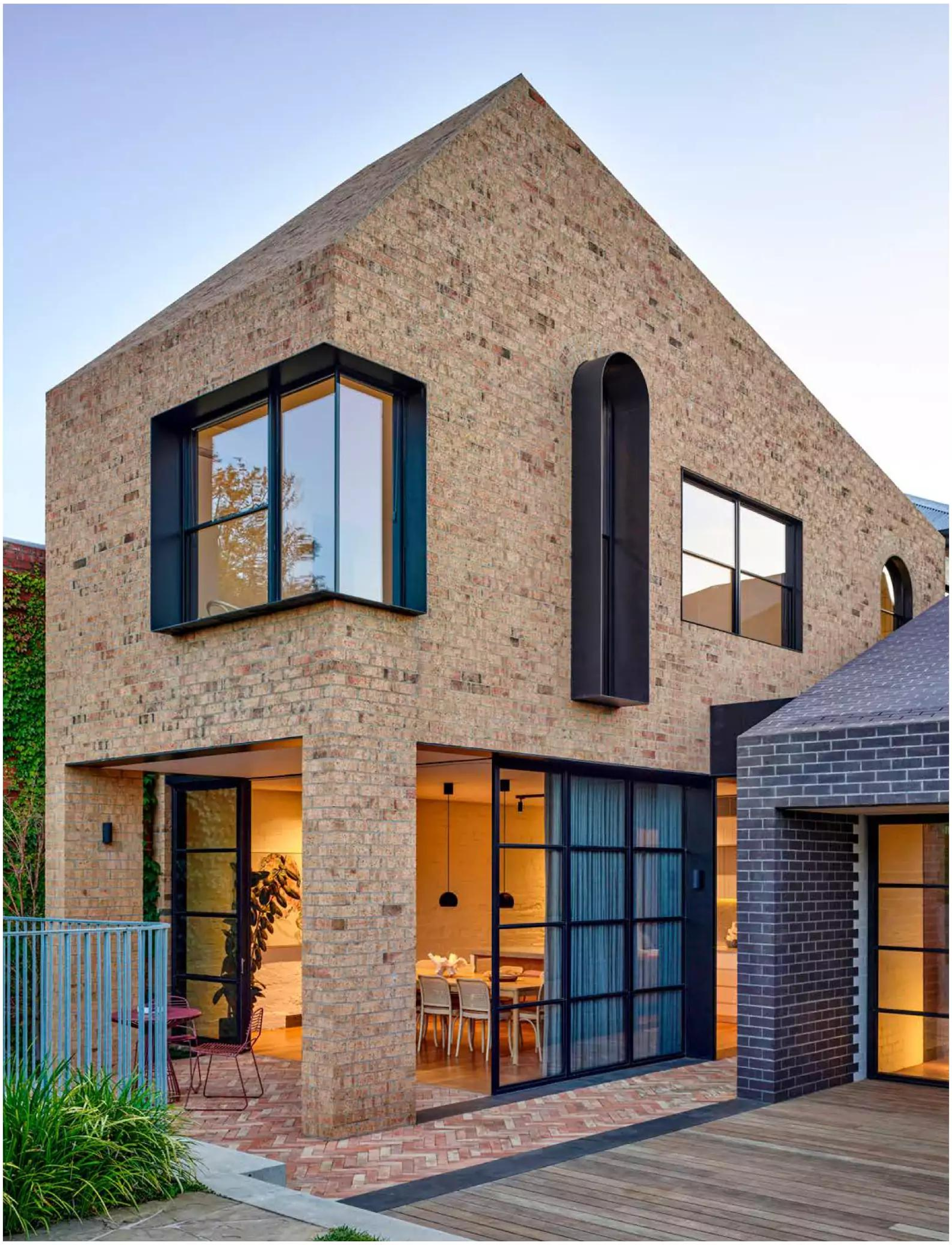
RUNNER UP

DANIEL ROBERTSON TRADITIONAL BUFF

A distinct and unique brick, thanks to its highly textured quality and multi-layered colouring, the Traditional Buff has rustic charm in droves, yet its sleek, slimline appearance means it fits the contemporary aesthetic brief. Matt Gibson notes it's an excellent alternative to a traditional cream brick.

“I really like *the warmth*. It’s got that *really homely feel*, rough in *texture* and not too consistent.”

KITTY LEE, ARCHITECT



CLEAR CONNECTION Matt Gibson Architecture + Design used Daniel Robertson Traditional Buff bricks (left) and AustralBricks La Paloma Romero (right), all Brickworks. Doors and window frames in Dulux Domino. Dining table, The Wood Room. Dining chairs, Thonet. Tossb ‘Sphere 1’ pendant lights, Hub. *Hold II* artwork by Belinda Fox.

Photography by Derek Swalwell.

RUNNER UP
BOWRAL BRICKS CHILLINGHAM WHITE

A stunning creamy brick, the Bowral Bricks Chillingham White caught the panel's attention with its crisp aesthetic, making it a striking choice for contemporary and heritage homes. Its clean lines mean this design works just as well as inside the home as it does on a larger scale outside, where its pale tones provide a calming canvas to the natural surrounds.

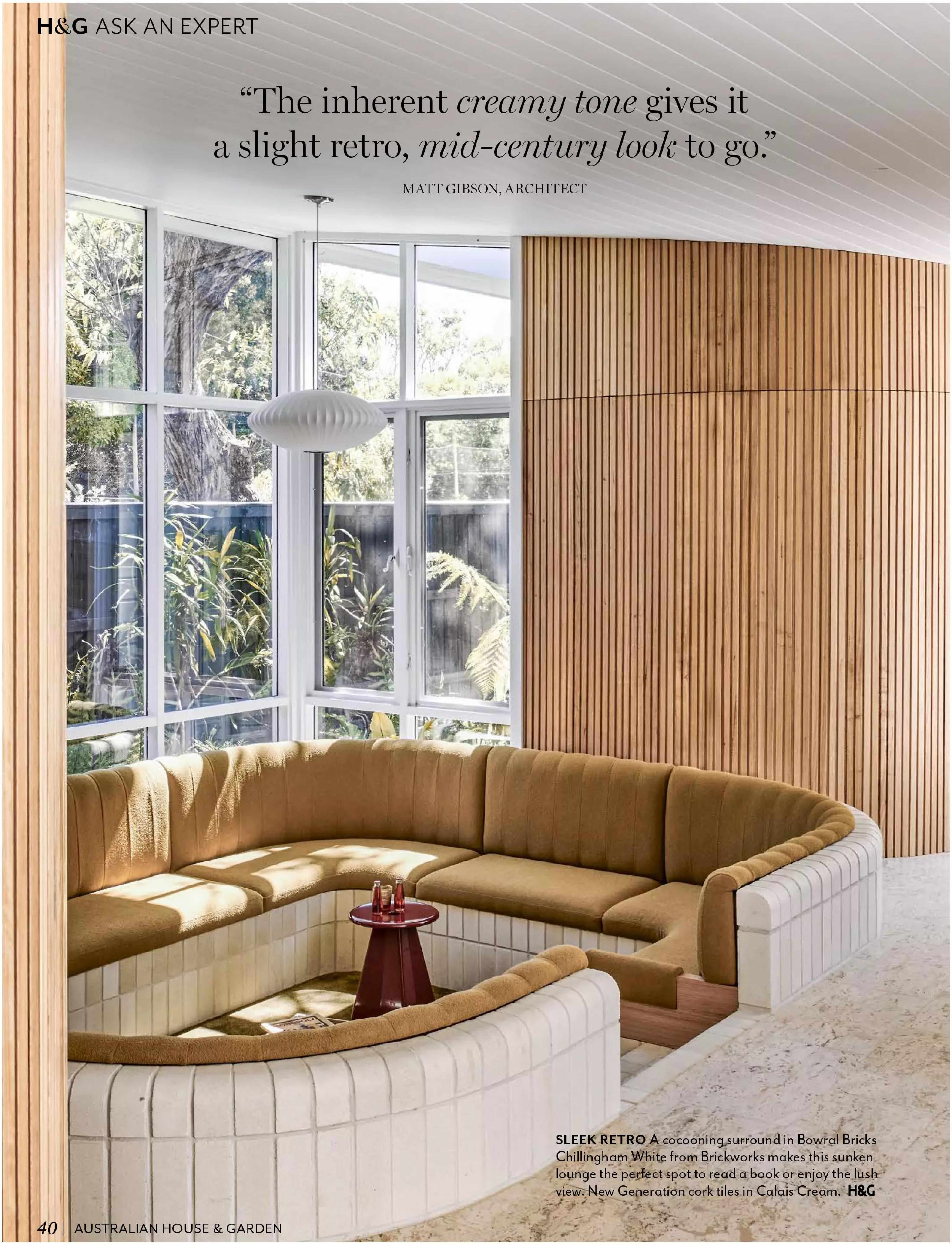
> "The *Chillingham White* is great for homes where you're trying to avoid doing a *white painted brick*."
>
> MATT GIBSON, ARCHITECT

SUNNY SIDE UP The pool area of this Mornington Peninsula home by Pleysier Perkins is warm and welcoming, surrounded by walls of Bowral Bricks Chillingham White, Brickworks.

Photography by Tom Blachford.

> “The inherent *creamy tone* gives it a slight retro, *mid-century look* to go.”

MATT GIBSON, ARCHITECT



SLEEK RETRO A cocooning surround in Bowral Bricks Chillingham White from Brickworks makes this sunken lounge the perfect spot to read a book or enjoy the lush view. New Generation cork tiles in Calais Cream. **H&G**

Photograph by Tom Blachford. Architecture by Pleysier Perkins.

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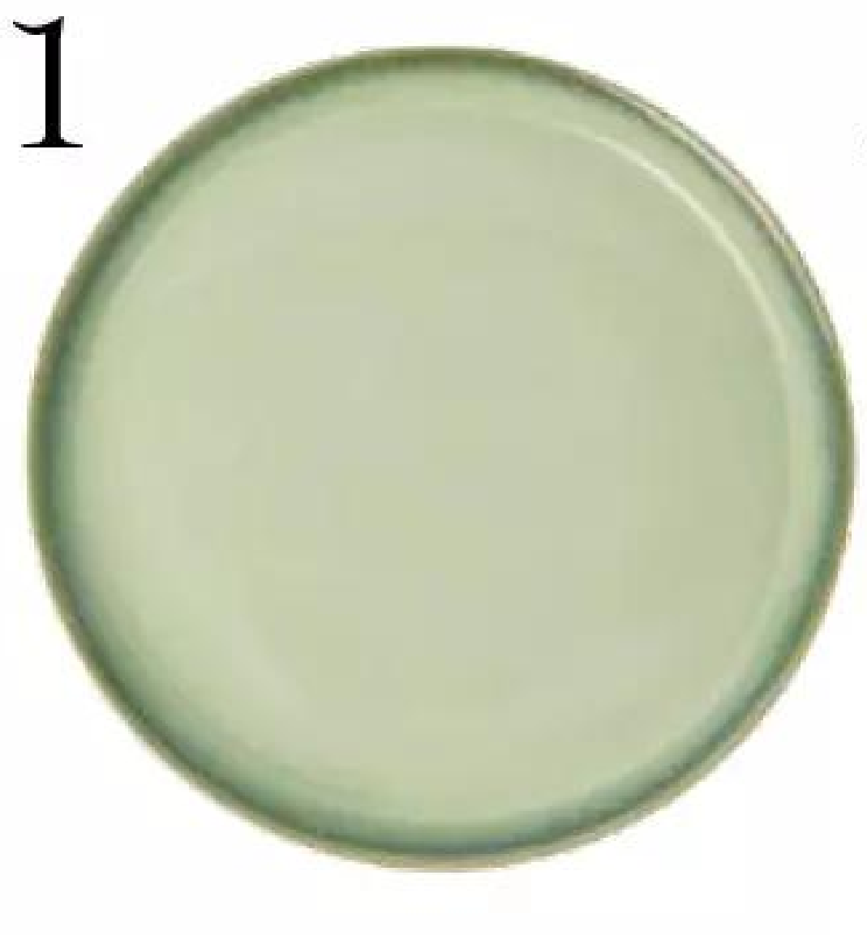
Stylescape

with SOPHIE WILSON

Learn the art of curating and layering a beautiful dining room, taking notes from *Australian House & Garden*'s resident stylist.

TOP FIVE *plates*

1



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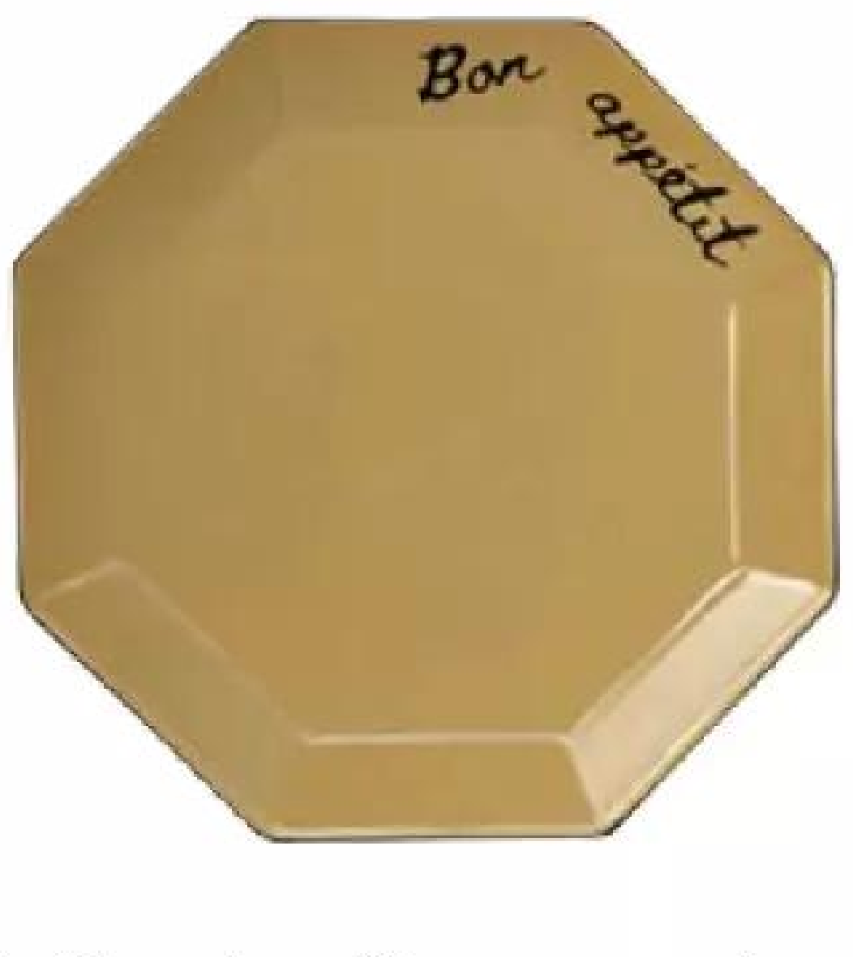

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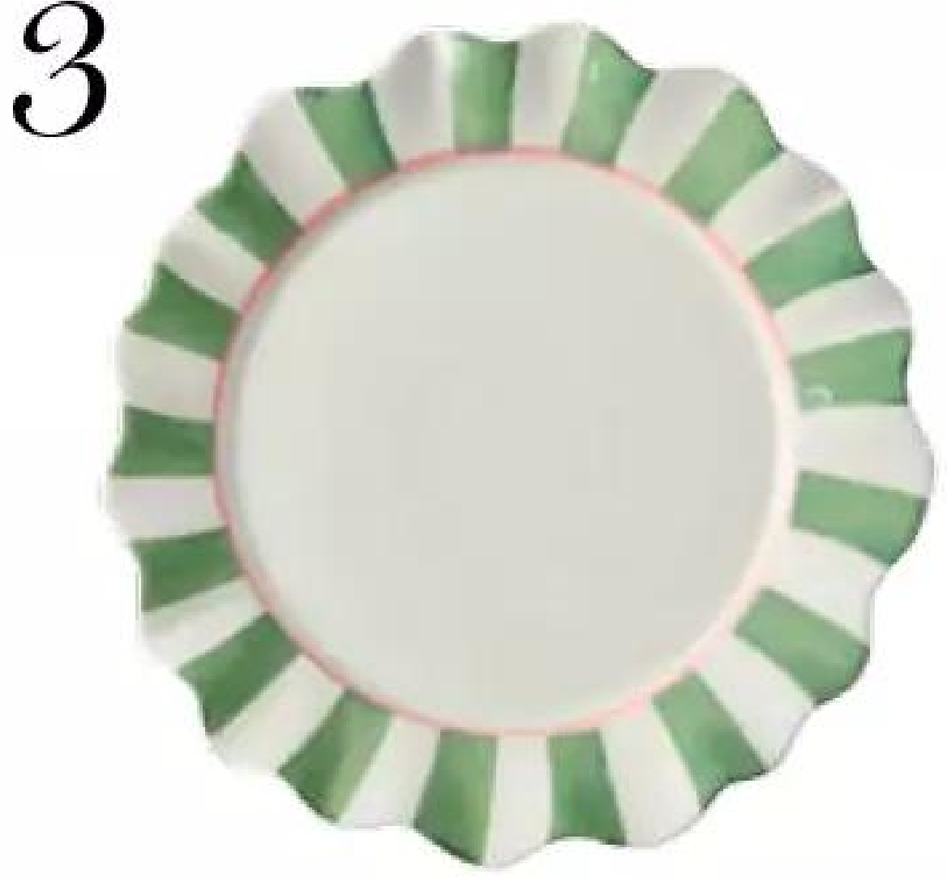

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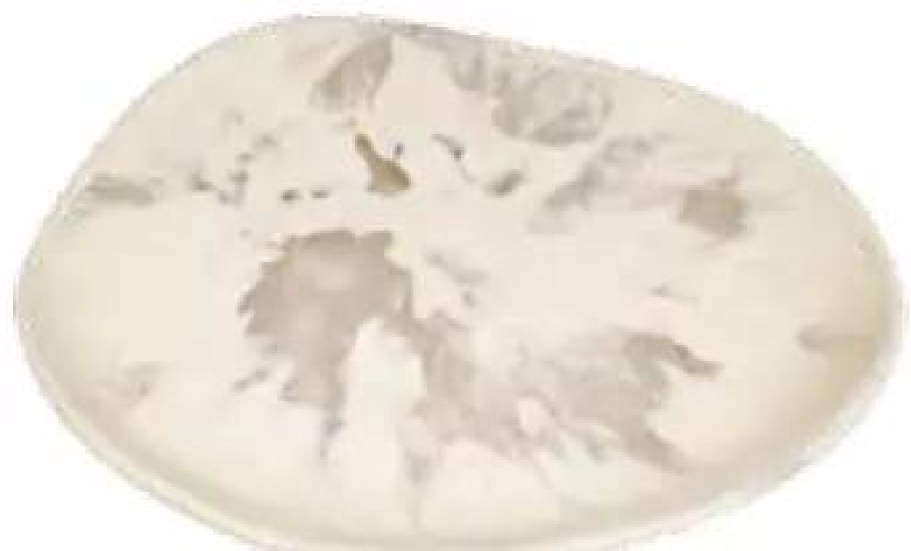

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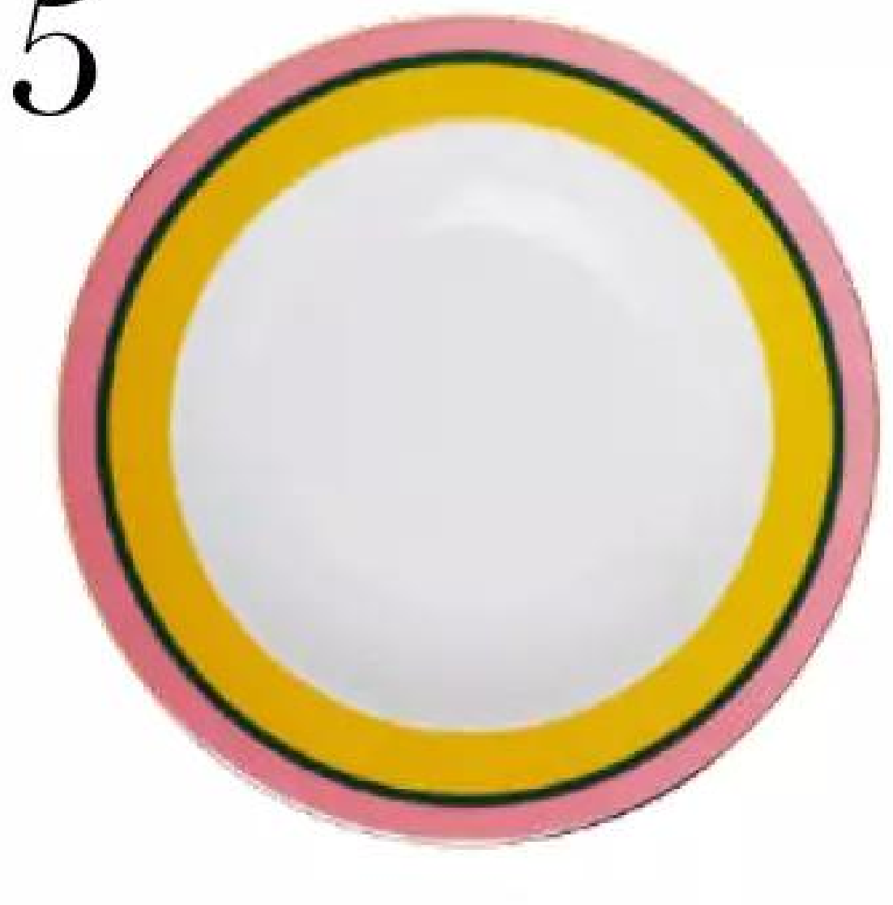
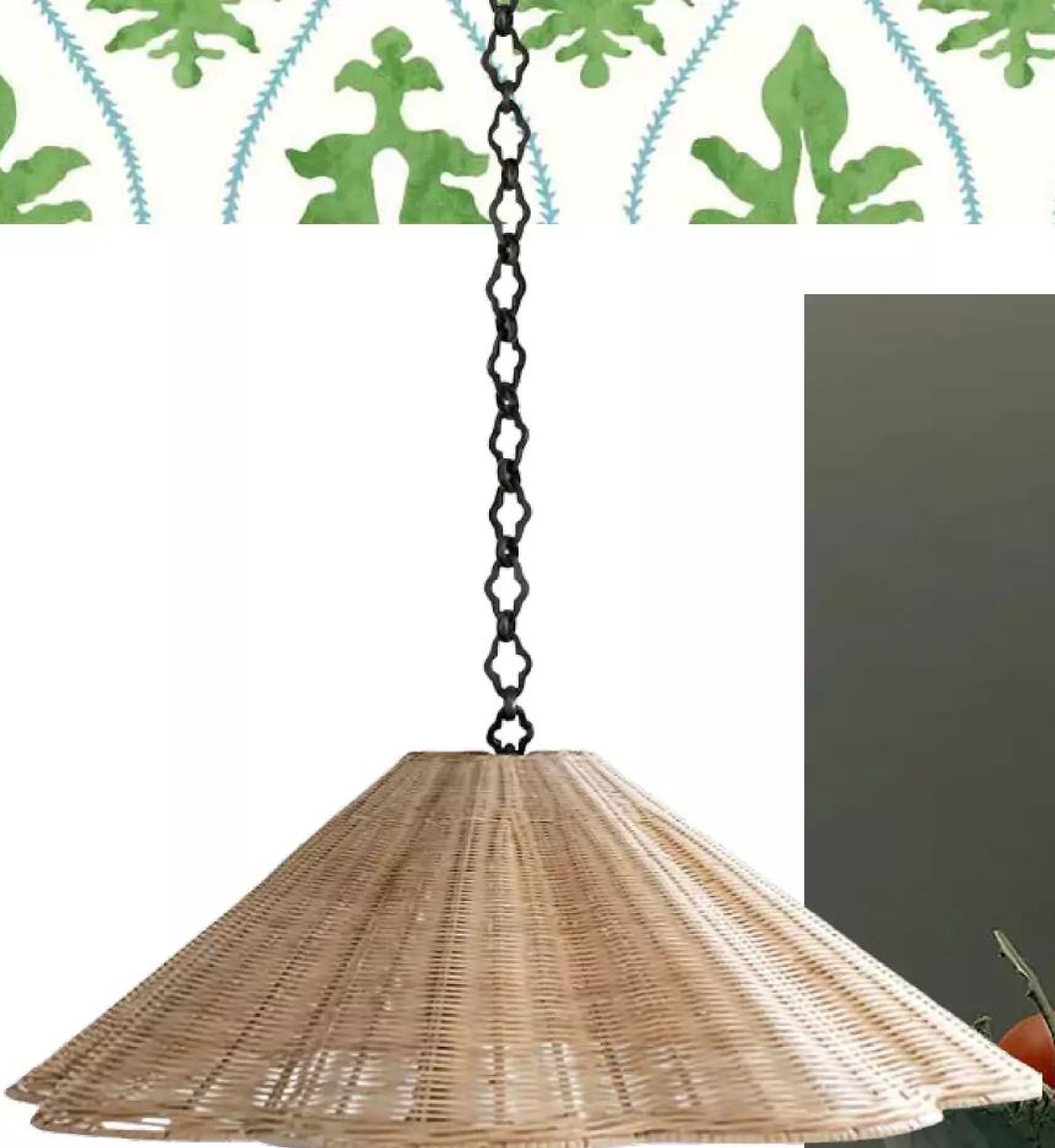


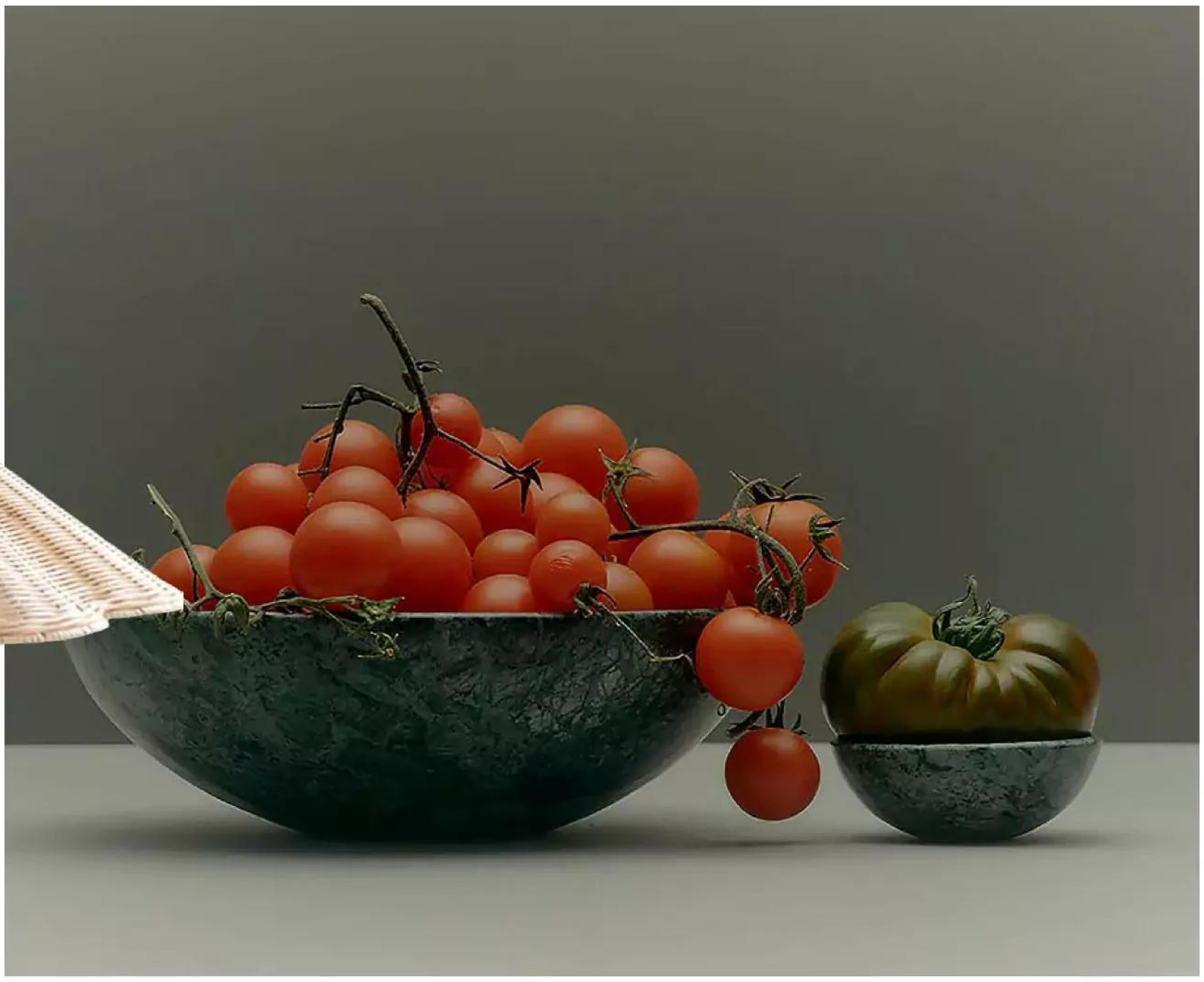
1 Australian House & Garden 'Esperance' celadon wiped-edge **plate** in Green, $149.95/12-piece set, Myer. **2** Black Blaze 'Gem' **dinner plate** in Wheat, $79/two, The Iconic. **3** 'Frill' green stripe **plate** in, $34.99, Adairs. **4** 'Pebble' **plate** in Chalk Swirl, $180, Dinosaur Designs. **5** La DoubleJ gold-plated painted porcelain **dinner plate**, $300/two, Net-a-Porter. **SET THE SCENE Chandelier**, The Montauk Lighting Co. **Styling pieces**, Myer, Isabel, Alfresco Emporium and French Knot. Studio Bartoli for Kristalia '1085' **dining chairs**, Fanuli. **Flooring** in Classic Seagrass Squares, Natural Floorcovering Centres.

Photograph of Sophie Wilson by Alana Landsberry. Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox. Border throughout, Diane Bergeron 'Great Jones' wallpaper in Moss, Milton & King.

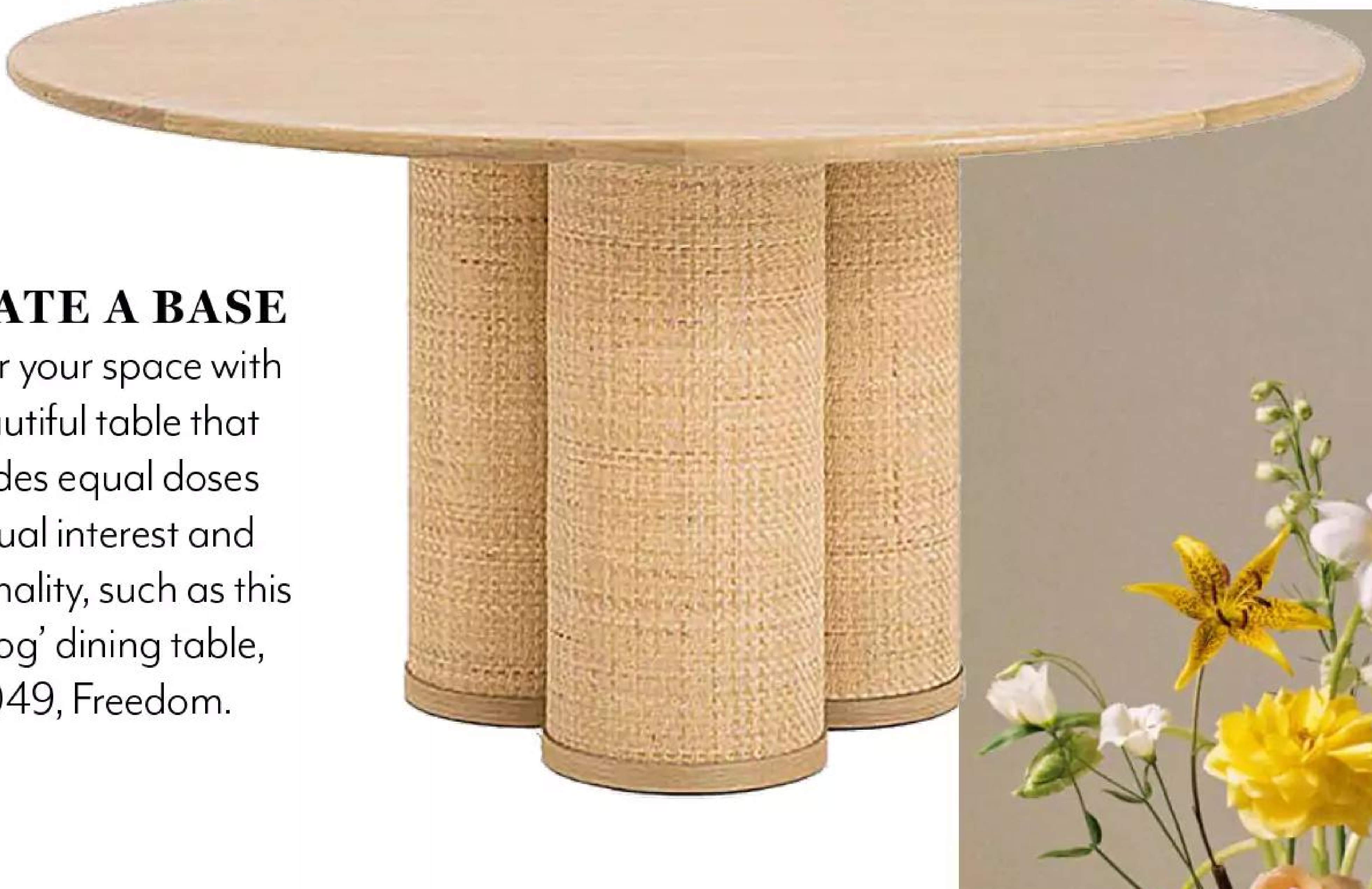


STATEMENT PIECE

Create a stunning focal point above your table. 'Etna' rattan pendant, $2748/XL, Dunlin.

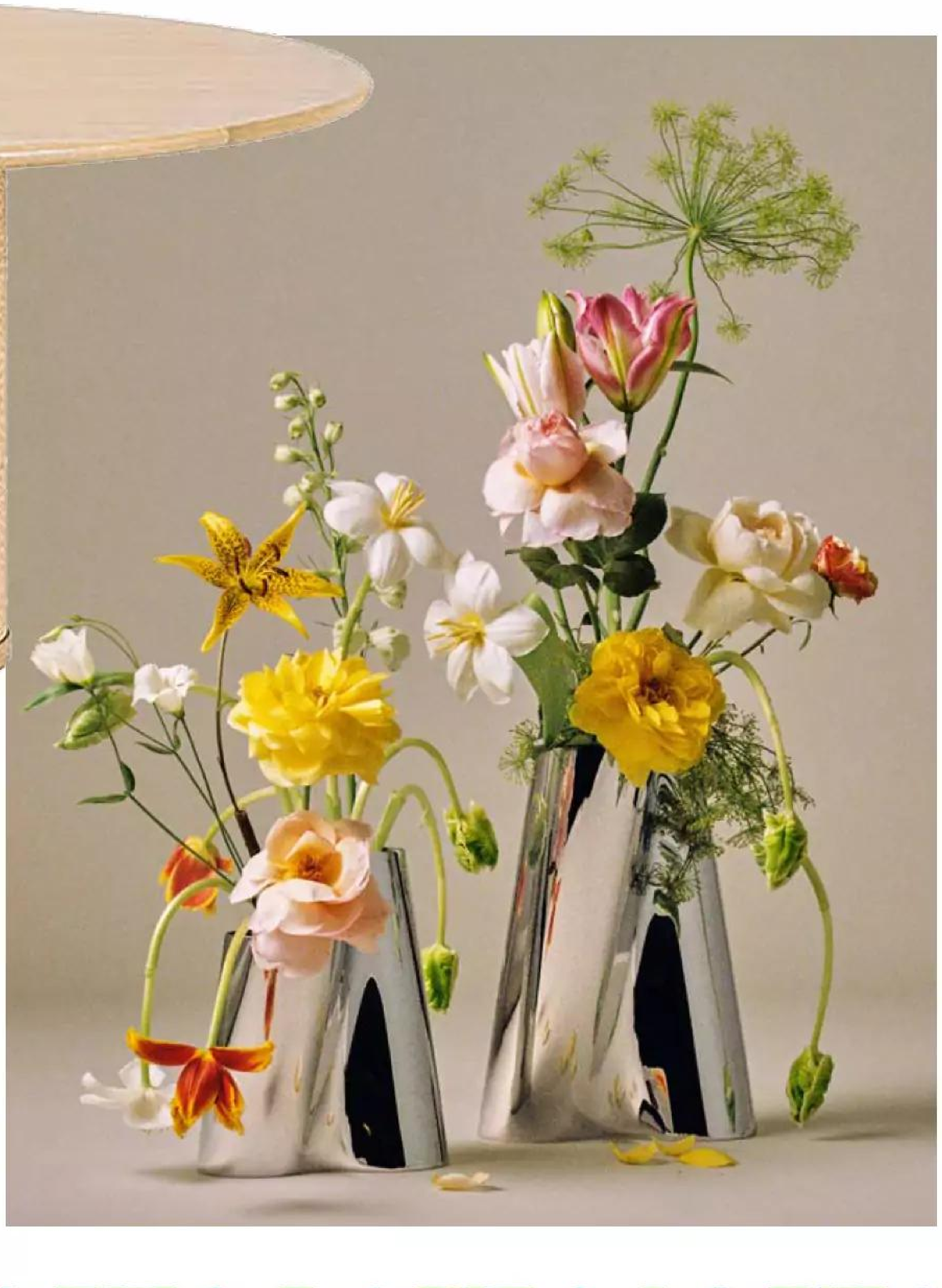


ADD A TOUCH OF LUXURY by using a *tactile marble vessel* as a FRUIT BOWL *centrepiece.* 'Atlas' bowl in Verde, $495/22cm, Corey Ashford.



CREATE A BASE

Anchor your space with a beautiful table that provides equal doses of visual interest and functionality, such as this 'Magog' dining table, $2049, Freedom.



METALLIC MOMENT

Style an elegant vase vignette with chrome vessels in different heights. 'Lituus' vases, from $215 each, Georg Jensen. ▶

BOLD HUES

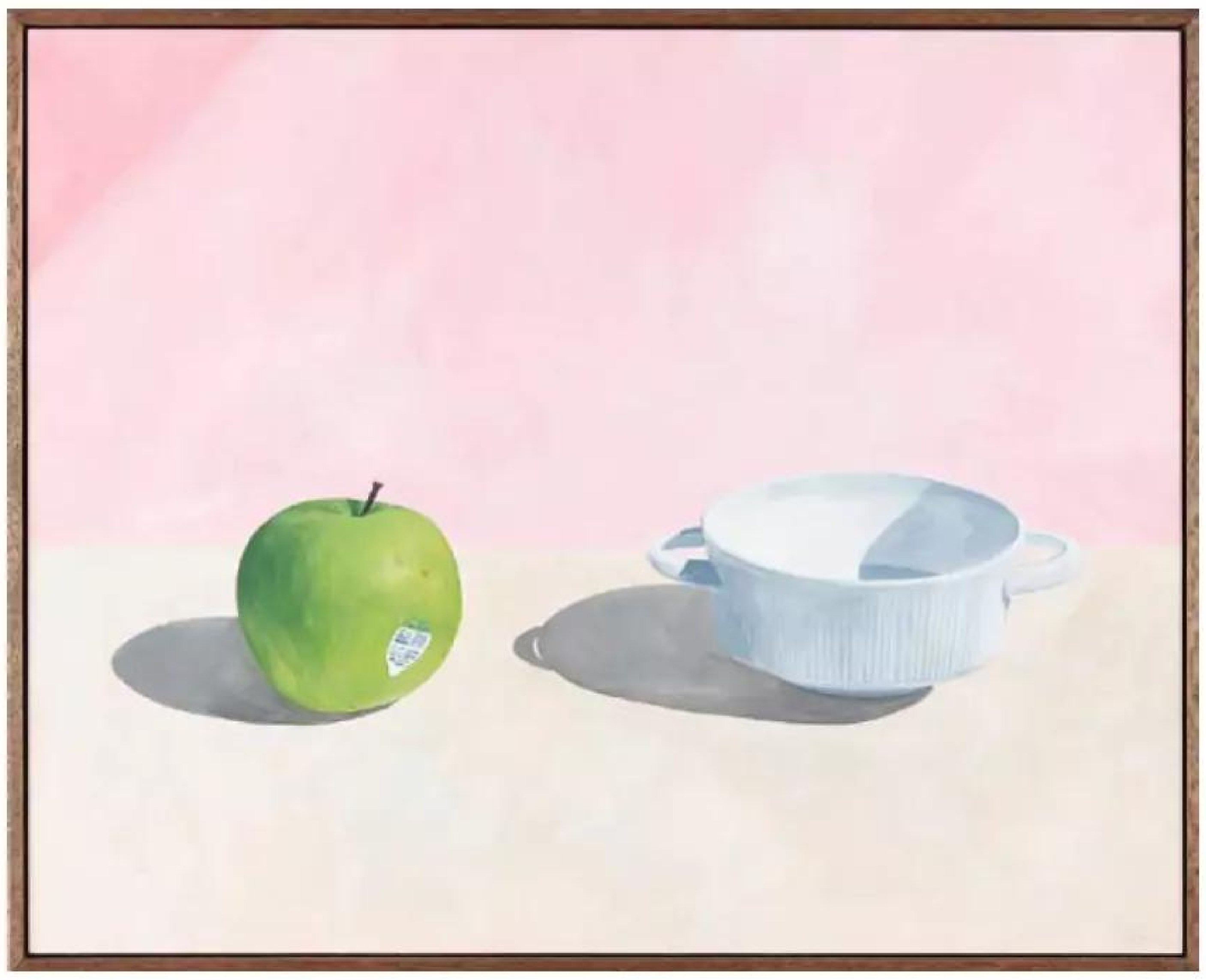
Add bright pops of colour via utilitarian pieces, such as these retro-style enamel salad servers in Sage, $70/set of two, Bonnie and Neil.

NEW WAVE
Organic shapes add intrigue. Australian House & Garden 'Ballina' vase in White, from $79.95, Myer.

BUTTER IS BETTER

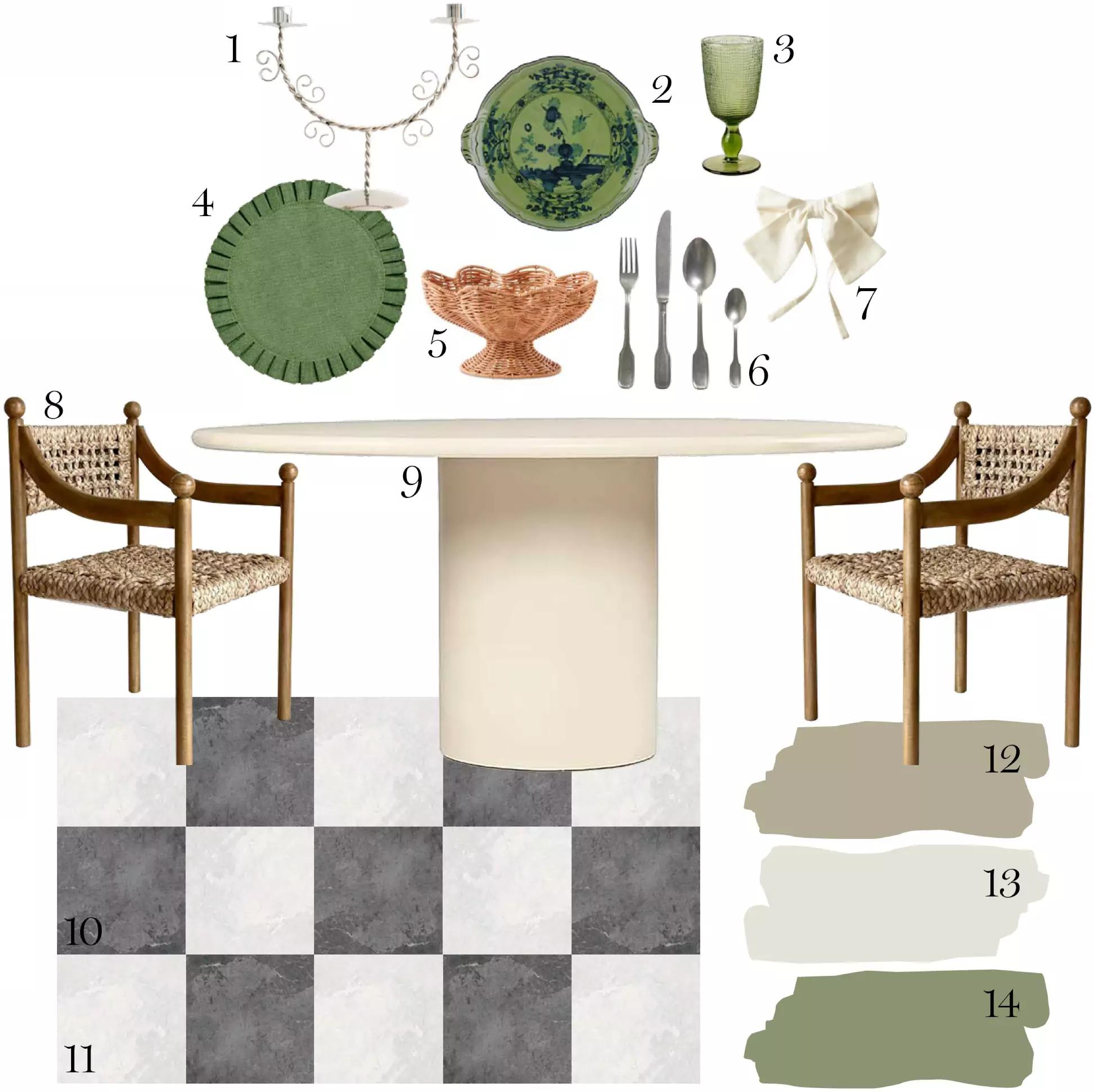
KitchenAid's 2025 'Colour of the Year' looks so sweet on the 'Artisan' tilt-head stand mixer, $1049; a subtle statement piece.

NATURAL SELECTION
Layer in natural weaves for textural depth. 'Adele' rattan serving tray, $99.95, Seed.



FRUITFUL ART *A bowl and a green apple on pink* by Sophie Sachs (52x42cm), $1400. See the artist's work in person from April 3 to 26 at Michael Reid Northern Beaches.

The Room



1 Sophie Lou Jacobsen **candleholder**, $260, Farfetch. **2** Ginori 1735 **cake plate**, $585, Emporean. **3** Australian House & Garden 'Lorne' **wine glass**, $59.95/four, Myer. **4** Pleated **placemat**, $40/four, In The Roundhouse. **5** 'Clementine' **pedestal bowl**, $44.99, Adairs. **6** Bitossi Home **cutlery**, $360/24-piece set, Emporean. **7** 'Tabatha' **napkin bow tie**, $95, Fred. **8** 'Pablo' **armchair**, $699, En Gold. **9** 'Florencia' **dining table**, $4199, Freedom. **10** 'Maximo' matt **tiles** in White and **11** in Black (45x45cm), $45.95/sqm, Beaumont Tiles. **12** Dulux **paint** in Oyster Linen. **13** Dulux **paint** in White Duck Quarter. **14** Dulux **paint** in Green Spruce. ▸

A TASTE OF ITALY

Sip espresso with a side of bold design at the Cibaria in Manly, Sydney. Take interior inspiration from layers of colour, texture and warmth designed by Luchetti Krelle, while sampling the delicious sharing-style menu by chef Alessandro Pavoni.

Photography by Steven Woodburn.

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Art of Stone by Greg Natale featuring Ada

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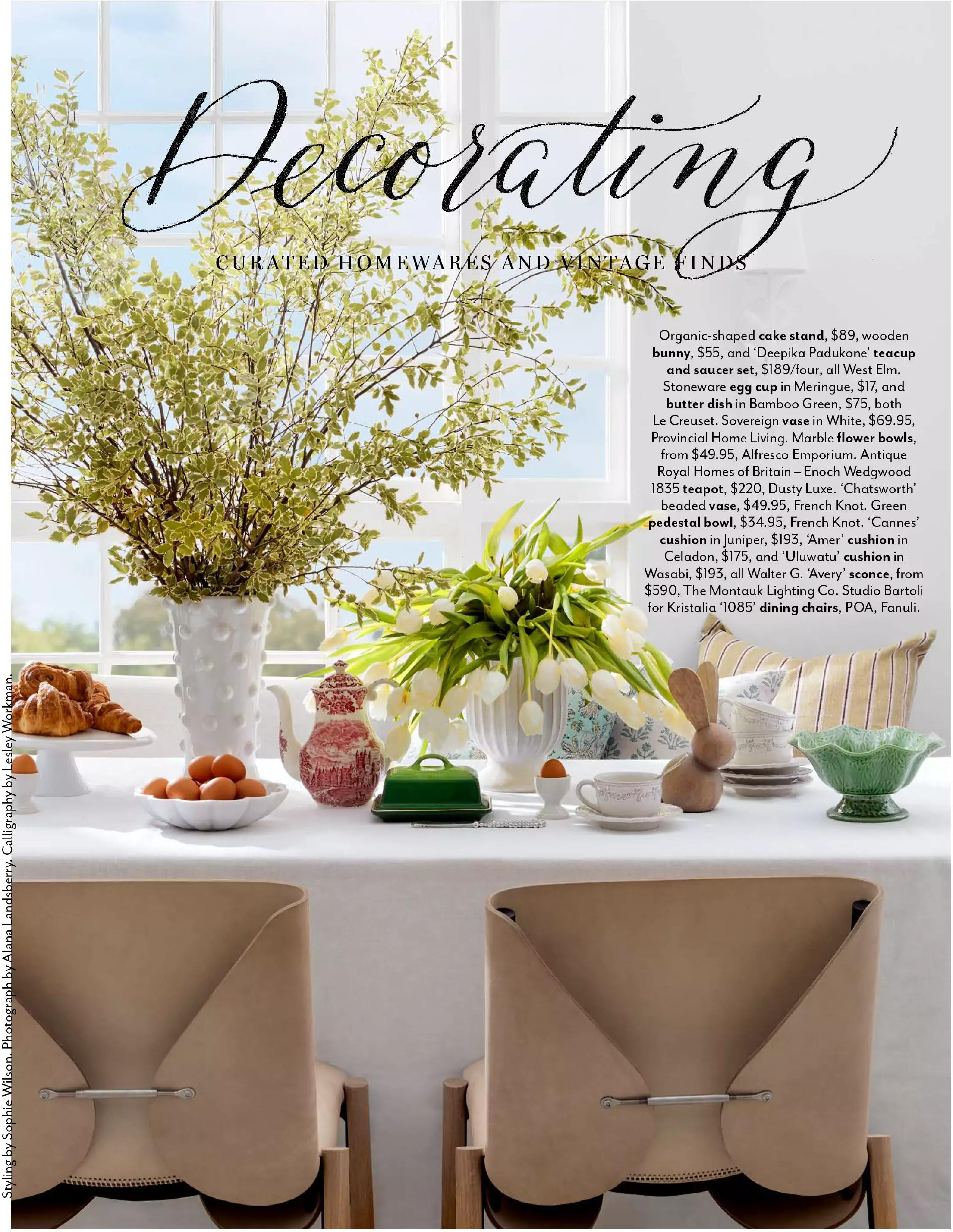
Decorating

CURATED HOMEWARES AND VINTAGE FINDS



Organic-shaped **cake stand**, $89, wooden **bunny**, $55, and 'Deepika Padukone' **teacup and saucer set**, $189/four, all West Elm. Stoneware **egg cup** in Meringue, $17, and **butter dish** in Bamboo Green, $75, both Le Creuset. Sovereign **vase** in White, $69.95, Provincial Home Living. Marble **flower bowls**, from $49.95, Alfresco Emporium. Antique Royal Homes of Britain – Enoch Wedgwood 1835 **teapot**, $220, Dusty Luxe. 'Chatsworth' beaded **vase**, $49.95, French Knot. Green **pedestal bowl**, $34.95, French Knot. 'Cannes' **cushion** in Juniper, $193, 'Amer' **cushion** in Celadon, $175, and 'Uluwatu' **cushion** in Wasabi, $193, all Walter G. 'Avery' **sconce**, from $590, The Montauk Lighting Co. Studio Bartoli for Kristalia '1085' **dining chairs**, POA, Fanuli.

Styling by Sophie Wilson. Photograph by Alana Landsberry. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

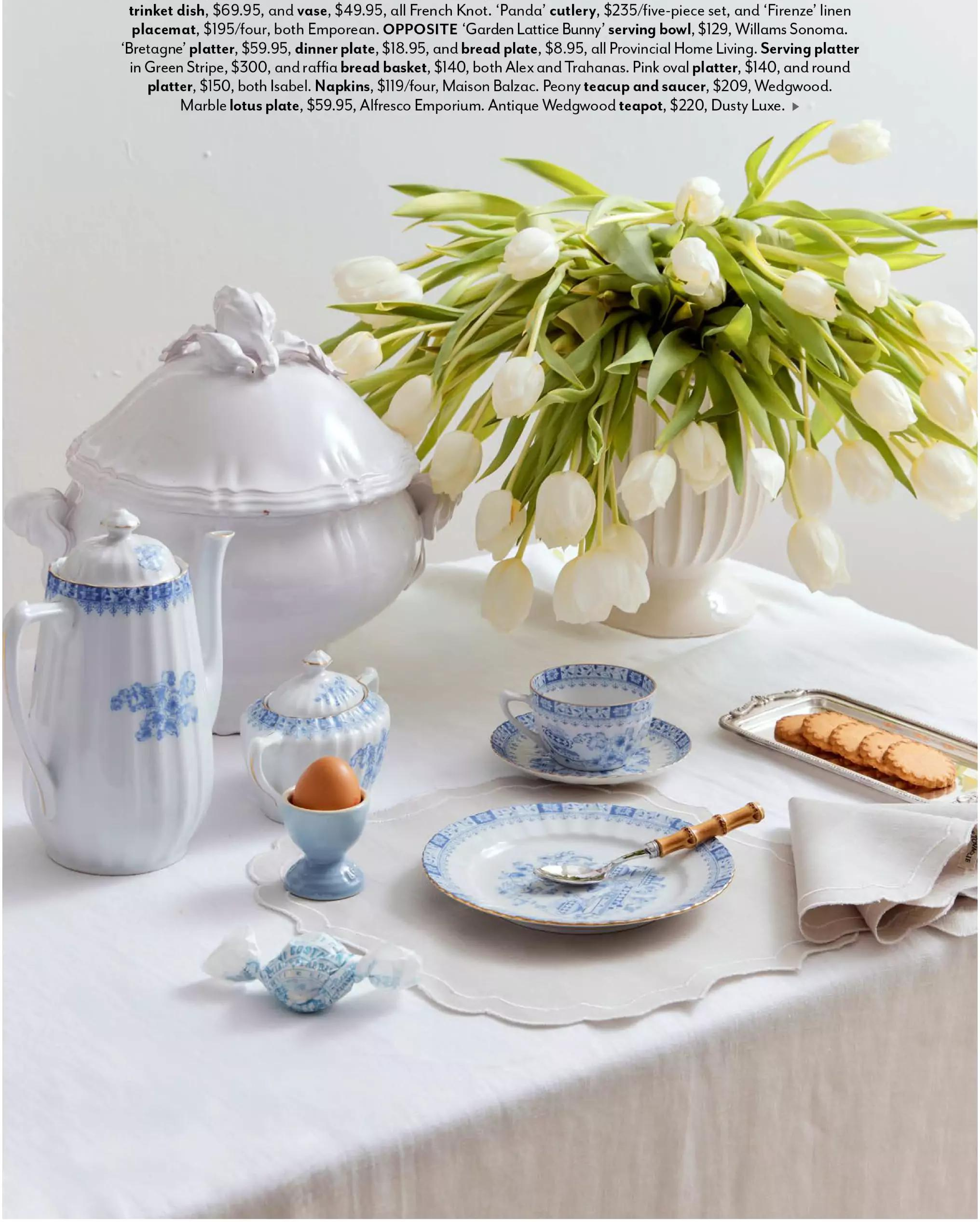
Vintage **jugs**, Dusty Luxe. **Water glass**, $195/two, Villeroy & Boch. **Vase**, $380, Holmon Home. **Tray**, $66, Pepperwhites. Antique **bowl**, $180, and **pedestal bowl**, $160, both Love After Love. **Bunny bowl**, $24, Pottery Barn. **Butter pat**, $8.95, Provincial Home Living. **Chocolate frogs**, $4.25 each, Simon Johnson. Gold **bee knives**, $34.95/two, and **trinket dish**, $69.95, both French Knot. **OPPOSITE** Marble **flower bowl**, $49.95, and **lotus plate**, $59.95, both Alfresco Emporium. **Dinner plates**, $59 each, and 'Garden Lattice Bunny' **plates**, $39 each, William Sonoma. Australian House & Garden 'Lorne' **wine glasses**, $59.95/four, and **tablecloth**, $119.95, all Myer. Kreuzband Septfontaines **cutlery**, $839/24-piece set, Villeroy & Boch. Gold **chocolate almonds**, $24.50/150g, Simon Johnson. **Basket**, $140, and 'Prickly Pear' **plate**, $400, Alex and Trahanas. **Vase**, $160, Love After Love. **Napkins**, $29.95/four, French Knot. ▸

TABLE *service*

Gather an armful of fresh delicate florals and set your Easter table in style, mixing new elegant pieces with vintage treasures.

STYLING *Sophie Wilson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*

White **tureen** and blue **tea set**, Dusty Luxe. **Egg cup**, $17, Le Creuset. Brutti e Buoni **vanilla biscuits**, $13.95/100g, and French pure butter **cookies**, $6.50/125g, all Simon Johnson. Linen **tablecloth** (300cm), $235, 'Chatsworth' **trinket dish**, $69.95, and **vase**, $49.95, all French Knot. 'Panda' **cutlery**, $235/five-piece set, and 'Firenze' linen **placemat**, $195/four, both Emporean. **OPPOSITE** 'Garden Lattice Bunny' **serving bowl**, $129, Willams Sonoma. 'Bretagne' **platter**, $59.95, **dinner plate**, $18.95, and **bread plate**, $8.95, all Provincial Home Living. **Serving platter** in Green Stripe, $300, and raffia **bread basket**, $140, both Alex and Trahanas. Pink oval **platter**, $140, and round **platter**, $150, both Isabel. **Napkins**, $119/four, Maison Balzac. Peony **teacup and saucer**, $209, Wedgwood. Marble **lotus plate**, $59.95, Alfresco Emporium. Antique Wedgwood **teapot**, $220, Dusty Luxe. ▸



Dinner set, Dusty Luxe. Cotton **tablecloth** in Paradise Cornflour Blue, $160, Love After Love. Embroidered scallop linen **napkin** in Sky Blue, $94/four, Blue Maisonette. Woven bow **napkin ring**, $17, Blue Maisonette. 'Sonia' **dining chair** in White Quartz boucle, $798, Castlery. 'Pomponette' **egg cups**, $99/two, and 'L'Escargot' **cutlery set** for two, $99/six pieces, all Maison Balzac. 'Tuscan' bauble **platter** in White, $205.95, Isabel. **H&G**

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CHILL *ZONE*

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COMFORT ZONE

A sofa says so much, but when you sink into it and close your eyes, it should say, "Don't ever leave me." Go bold on colour or fabric, but never at the expense of comfort.

When it's time to shut out the world and relax, comfort and style go hand-in-hand. Details matter, palettes can make or break a mood, and room dynamics can change the way we use a space. Creating a living space that makes you feel good or calm and centred is all-important.

The perfect sofa is an investment in both comfort and aesthetics, and when you choose well, it not only elevates your living room but also stands the test of time. Look for good support and high-quality cushions that will maintain their shape, no matter who's sitting or lying on them. A well-constructed frame will also guarantee longevity.

Choose quality fabrics and craftsmanship in the stitching and upholstery to ensure your investment lasts. A high-end sofa will use durable and easy-to-clean fabric, leather or high-thread-count linen so it lasts as long as you need it to and looks as good as it feels.

OPPOSITE 'Zepplyn' **modular sofa** in Cotton Olive Green, $8299. 'Whitlam' **floor rug** (200x300cm), $1299. 'Krid' **buffet**, $1699. 'Emu' **cushion**, $79.95. 'Zoe' **scatter cushion**, $59.95. 'Mattia' **vase** (26cm), $69.95. 'Wombeyan' **table lamp**, $349. 'Jules' **scatter cushion** in Natural, $69.95. All from Freedom.com.au

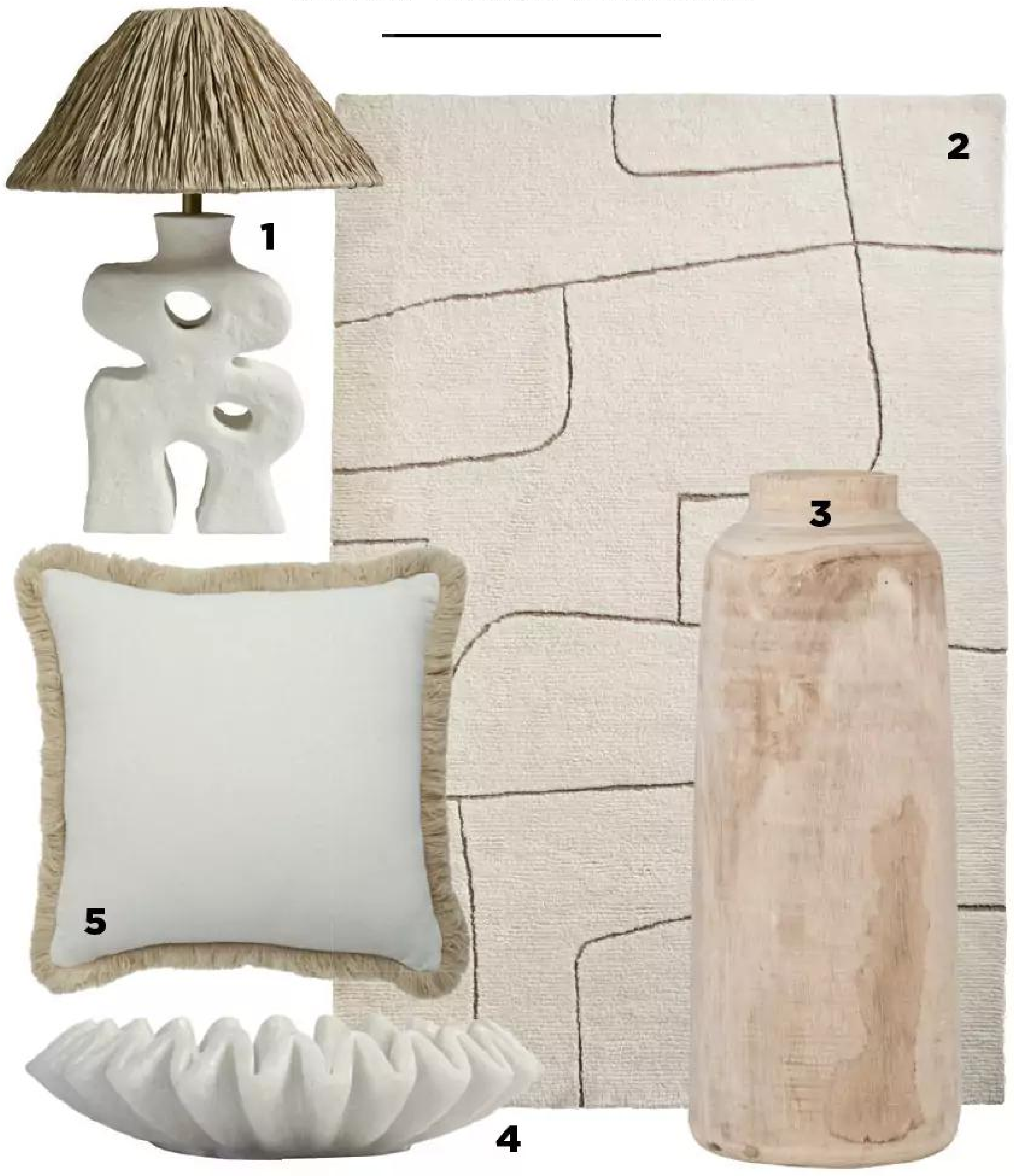
CURATED PLAY

A sideboard, buffet or bookcase is the ultimate place to express your design personality. Keep it tonal but textured for interest.

CUSTOMISE YOUR LOOK

From sumptuous velvet to contemporary boucle, Freedom's huge range of high-quality fabric options allows you to create a bespoke look for your space that will move with the times and your way of living.

GET THE LOOK



SITTING PRETTY

Dial up the design in your room with a statement piece. Freedom's range of armchairs is designed with sleek silhouettes, geometric shapes and subtle detailing for the ultimate accents.

1 'Wombeyan' **table lamp**, $349. 2 'Whitlam' **floor rug** (200x300cm), $1299. 3 'Dansk' **vase**, $109. 4 'Eleanora' bowl, $139. 5 'Emu' **cushion**, $79.95. **OPPOSITE** 'Matcha' occasional **armchair** in Jacquard Boucle, $999. 'Derby' **floor lamp**, $329. 'Champy' **side table**, $499. 'Pearce' **floor rug**, $2449. 'Tierra' cuddle **mug**, $9.95. 'Nymphaea' **vessel**, $24.95. All from Freedom.com.au

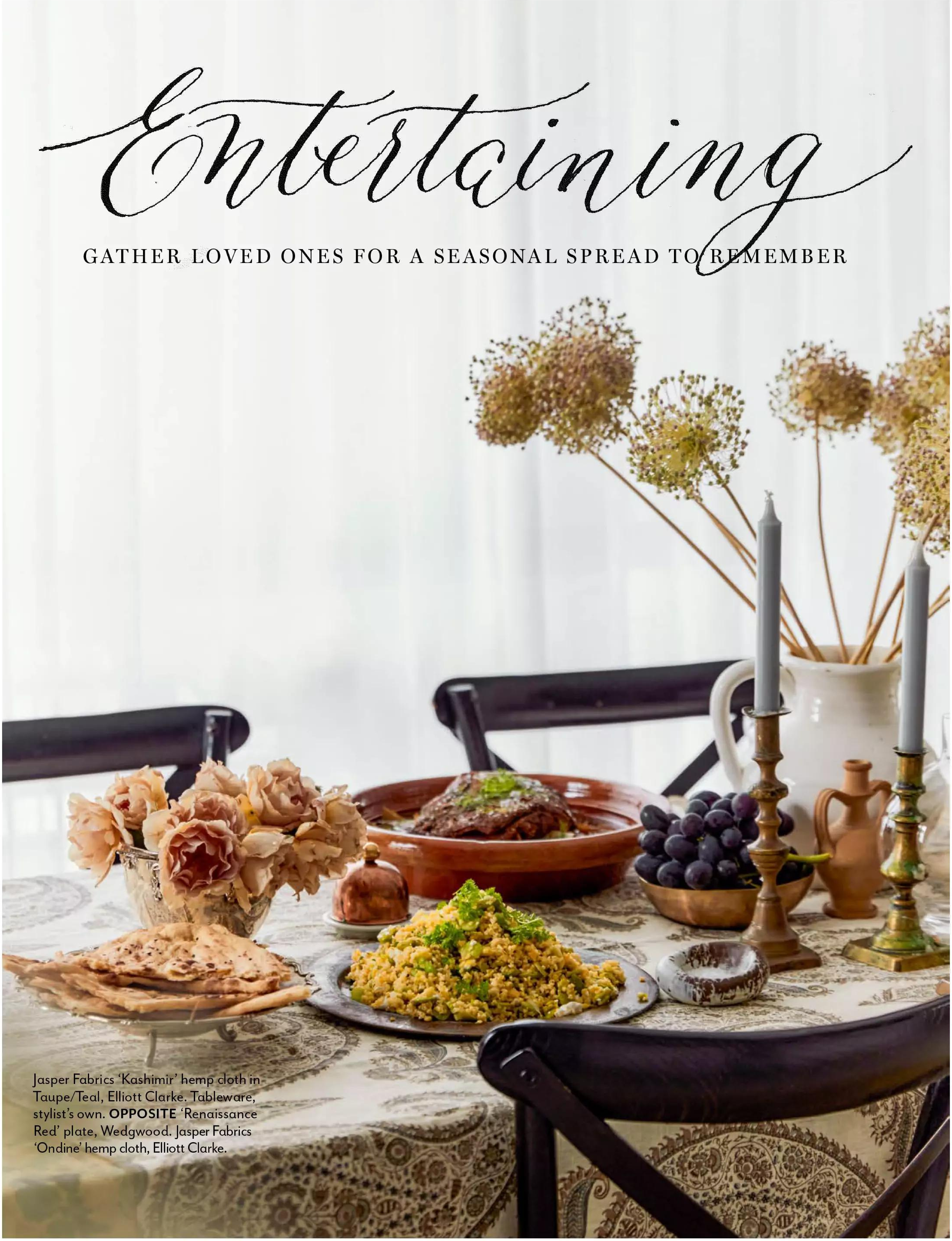
FREEDOM

Feel good at **Freedom.com.au**

> “A STATEMENT CHAIR CAN TURN AN EMPTY SPACE INTO A PLACE TO BE.”

Entertaining

GATHER LOVED ONES FOR A SEASONAL SPREAD TO REMEMBER



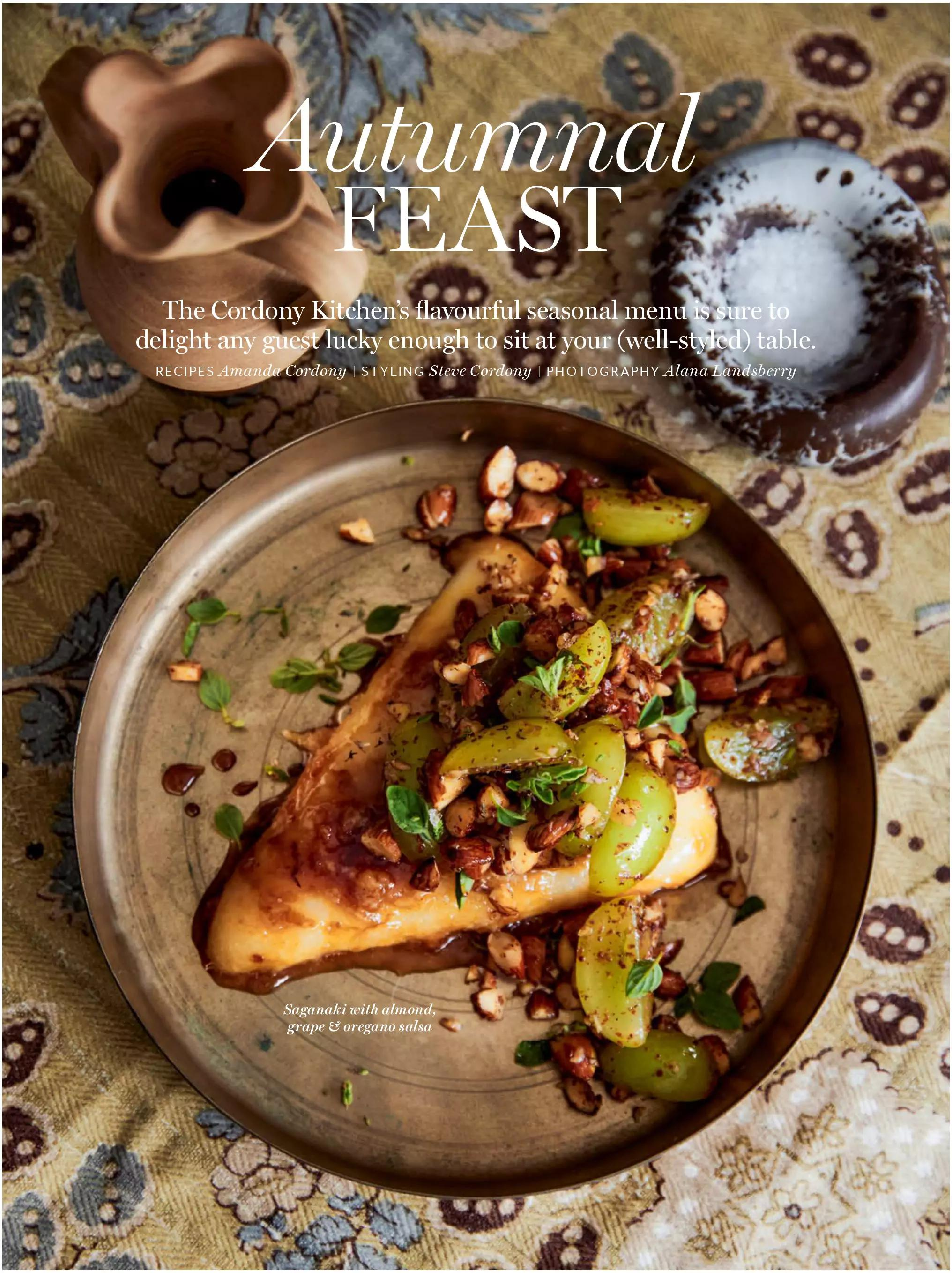
Jasper Fabrics 'Kashimir' hemp cloth in Taupe/Teal, Elliott Clarke. Tableware, stylist's own. **OPPOSITE** 'Renaissance Red' plate, Wedgwood. Jasper Fabrics 'Ondine' hemp cloth, Elliott Clarke.

Styling by Steve Cordony. Photograph by Alana Landsberry. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

Autumnal FEAST

The Cordony Kitchen's flavourful seasonal menu is sure to delight any guest lucky enough to sit at your (well-styled) table.

RECIPES *Amanda Cordony* | STYLING *Steve Cordony* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*



Saganaki with almond, grape & oregano salsa

Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox using Dermalogica, By Terry, and Oribe.

'Escoffier' induction roasting pan with rack, Chasseur. *Lemon Bowl* artwork, Coast to Coast Home. **OPPOSITE** Jasper Fabrics 'Ondine' hemp cloth, Elliott Clarke.

Bulgur with broad beans, leek, thyme, preserved lemon & feta

Serve this *hearty main* with *warmed flatbread* on the side.

Slow-cooked lamb shoulder with garam masala

Chocolate Easter mousse log

For fuss-free entertaining, prepare this *delectable treat* the day before, then *whip it out of the fridge*, decorate and serve up to *happy guests*.

SAGANAKI WITH ALMOND, GRAPE & OREGANO SALSA

Prep time:* *10 minutes.
Cooking time:* *5 minutes.
Serves:* *6–8.

1 cup quartered green grapes, such as Autumn Crisp
¾ cup roughly chopped roasted almonds
1 teaspoon dried Aleppo pepper
1 lemon, zested and juiced
2 tablespoons (40ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon sea salt
¼ teaspoon cracked pepper, to taste
200g saganaki cheese
2 tablespoons (40ml) honey
10g fresh oregano, finely chopped, to serve

1 In a small bowl, mix grapes, almonds, Aleppo pepper, lemon zest, 1 tablespoon of the oil, sea salt and cracked pepper. Set aside.
2 In a small frying pan over medium–high heat, add remaining oil. Place cheese in pan and cook for 1 minute on each side.
3 Pour lemon juice and honey over the cheese. Turn over cheese to coat in lemon and honey and cook until cheese is caramelised. Remove from heat.
4 Place cheese on a serving plate. Top with grape and almond mix, sprinkle over fresh oregano and serve immediately.

SLOW-COOKED LAMB SHOULDER WITH GARAM MASALA

Prep time:* *15 minutes.
Cooking time:* *4 hours + resting.
Serves:* *6–8.

2 medium brown onions, cut into wedges
2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped (reserve fronds, to serve)
2 large carrots, peeled, roughly chopped
1.8kg lamb shoulder, bone in
3 tablespoons (60ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon garam masala
1 tablespoon sea salt, extra to serve
1 teaspoon cracked pepper, extra to serve

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan).
2 Place onions, fennel and carrots in a 30cm round baking dish. Place lamb shoulder on top and rub with oil, garam masala, sea salt and cracked pepper. Add 4 cups of water to the dish. Cover dish with baking paper and seal tightly with foil.
3 Bake for 3 hours, then remove foil and baking paper and bake, uncovered, for a further 1 hour until lamb is tender and pulls apart easily.
4 Remove from oven, then rest lamb for 10 minutes. Garnish with fennel fronds and season to taste.

BULGUR WITH BROAD BEAN, LEEK, THYME, PRESERVED LEMON & FETA

Prep time:* *30 minutes.
Cooking time:* *10 minutes.
Serves:* *6–8.

1 cup coarse bulgur (cracked wheat)
50g unsalted butter
2 leeks, white part only, thinly sliced
2 cups frozen shelled broad beans
2 small preserved lemons, rind thinly sliced
100g Bulgarian goat's feta, crumbled
½ cup sliced raw pistachios
2 tablespoons (40ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon sea salt, ¼ teaspoon cracked pepper and chervil, to serve

1 Place bulgur in a large bowl, cover with boiling water, cover with a tea towel and set aside for 20 minutes. Drain then return to the bowl.
2 In a medium frying pan, melt butter. Add leeks and cook over low heat, stirring, for 3 minutes. Add broad beans and cook for another 6–8 minutes, until tender.
3 Remove leeks from heat, then add to bulgur. Stir in preserved lemon and feta.
4 Spoon onto a serving platter, sprinkle over pistachios, drizzle over oil, and season with sea salt and cracked pepper. Garnish with chervil and serve.

CHOCOLATE EASTER MOUSSE LOG

Prep time:* *30 minutes + overnight.
Serves:* *6–8.

200g chocolate biscuits, such as chocolate ripple
120g unsalted butter, melted
300g 55% Belgian dark chocolate
300ml thickened cream
1 teaspoon pure vanilla paste
3 large eggs, separated (room temperature)
⅓ cup (80g) caster sugar
1 teaspoon sea salt
40ml hot espresso shot
1 teaspoon gelatin powder
45 mini chocolate Easter eggs

1 Grease a 25 x 15cm loaf tin. Line with baking paper, leaving a 10cm overhang.
2 In a food processor, process chocolate biscuits and melted butter until finely crumbed, then press evenly into base of loaf tin.
3 Melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl over lightly simmering water. Add salt and stir until smooth. Set aside to cool.
4 In a stand mixer, whisk cream and vanilla until stiff peaks form. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
5 Clean and dry mixer bowl. Place egg whites in bowl and beat until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, continuing to beat until stiff meringue peaks form (about 8 minutes). Set aside.
6 Place hot espresso, egg yolks and gelatine in a small bowl and whisk until gelatine is dissolved. Set aside.
7 Fold cooled melted chocolate into whipped cream, then mix in the espresso gelatine. Gently fold chocolate cream into meringue.
8 Spoon mousse into loaf tin, cover top with the baking paper overhang, then place in fridge overnight.
9 To serve, arrange even rows of chocolate eggs to cover top of mousse. **H&G**

MELISSA PENFOLD & ISABELLA WALKER-SMITH

PAINT & WALLPAPER

OUR INTERIOR INSIDERS SHARE THEIR EXPERT DECORATING SECRETS AND GUIDE TO CURATING THE BEST-DRESSED WALLS AROUND.

STYLING *Sophie Wilson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Kristina Šoljo*

Most Popular Colours
Interior & Exterior Whites
DULUX
AUTHENTIC
COLOUR

Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox using Dermalogica, By Terry and Oribe.

Certain elements involved in decorating have the feel of magic. Among them are paint and wallpaper with their ability to lend flat surfaces the illusion of depth. No other decorative device can accomplish so much impact per dollar as wallpaper or paint. They are the quickest, most transformative way to create a home that feels lived-in yet sophisticated.

Paint and wallpaper allow you to express yourself. Used correctly, they can add warmth, character and drama. With practise you can use paint to make a room look larger or smaller, taller or wider.

Wallpaper is a powerful design tool that can transform a room. You start with a white box and end up with what feels like an entirely different space, wrapped in an intricate floral design or a bold geometric pattern. It gives a space texture and is great for softening modern interiors. Choose something that will positively influence your mood, whether that be a choice in cocooning deep tones or with a tactile finish.

Smaller, darker spaces (bedrooms, studies, offices and bathrooms), where you want to feel like you're enveloped, are the best places to hang wallpaper. (Keep in mind that larger rooms with great light and beautiful views are often best painted.) And if your walls have wonky plasterwork, get pasting. Wrap your rooms in silk, grasscloth, quill, faux ironwork, leather or stripes, or opt for a mural of street scenes, detailed landscapes or book-lined shelves. But what style is best? Intricate or bold? Floral or geometric? Read on for your best dressed walls. The suppliers we've listed are all great examples of their kind.

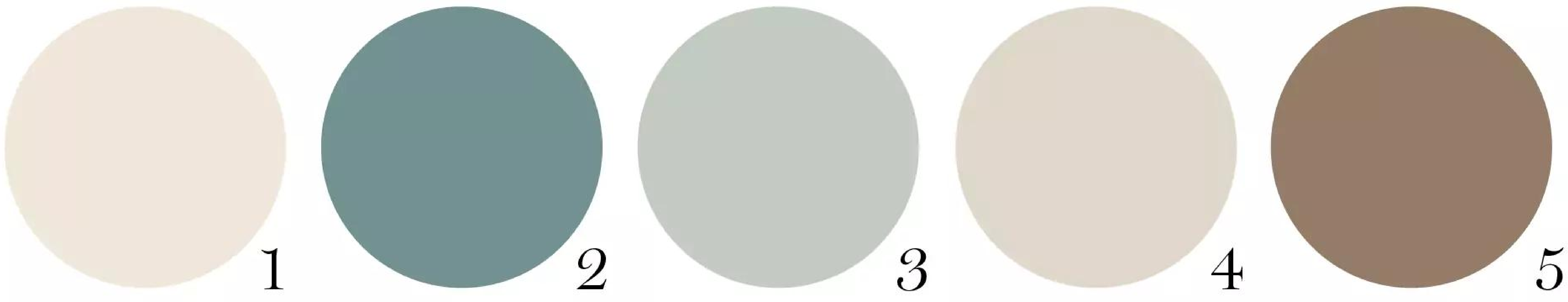
PAINT

BAUWERK COLOUR

Popular with the environmentally aware, this Perth-based paint company specialises in non-toxic limewash made using nature-inspired natural pigments, which lend themselves to soft earthy tones. Select from a range of more than 300 colours, such as neutrals Mykonos, Quiet and Bone, rosy hues Climbing Rose and Bracken, and warm blue Hellebore, each with an ultra matt finish that absorbs and softens light. With its organic finish, this limewash is an enduring, eco-conscious choice with zero VOCs, allowing walls to breathe and inhibiting the growth of mould in humid areas. Ideal for absorbent surfaces such as bricks. Applying to previously painted walls requires a coat of primer, available from the online store. Check the 'Application Guides' on their website. You can also order colour sample cards, sample pots and special limewash brushes online. *bauwerkcolour.com*

MUROBOND

Heavyweight architects love the interesting earthy colours and textures here. Look out for its limewash. ▶



1 Dulux **Hog Bristle**®. 2 Porter's Paints **Hailstorm**. 3 Wattyl **Westerly**. 4 Resene **Merino**. 5 Murobond **Olive Tree**.
OPPOSITE Isabella and Melissa browse the most popular paint colour choices at the Dulux Trade Centre in Rosebery, NSW.

Using it is a great way to give a new wall a bit of softness. As well as their Bridge paint, the sort of thing used to paint the Harbour Bridge. Made of micaceous iron oxide, it can be used for ceilings, walls, front doors, shutters, metal gates and railings. The company's water-based paints have a low VOC rating, and its oil-based paints are made with sustainable vegetable oil. Murowash contains less than 10 grams VOCs per litre. Known for their paint's complex pigmentation that provides character, definition and depth of colour – some with an ultra matt finish that absorbs and softens the light in the room. Over the past year, people have gravitated toward warm whites, bold oranges and reds, calming blues and indigos, as well as eucalyptus and olive greens. *murobond.com.au*

PETER LEWIS PAINTS

Originally the founder of Porter's Paints, Peter created Australia's first natural paint company, offering entirely sustainable paint products in more than 250 colours and special finishes made from plant-based resins and natural pigments. The non-toxic, low-odour paints provide the durability and coverage you'd expect from a premium paint without emitting VOCs or toxins (which can continue to be released into the air for years after application). It's made by Auro, a German company that now also distributes in the US. There are four paint types: Natural Emulsion in Eggshell, Dead Flat, Low Sheen or Satin Trim that come in lime render, lime fresco, limewash and distemper, which all have zero VOCs. *peterlewispaints.com.au*

PORTER'S PAINTS

If it's good enough for the Art Gallery of NSW, it's good enough for us. Porter's Paints produces a range of handmade paints with natural finishes. The soft sandy beige White Sand is a favourite of designer Lynda Kerry. "It reads like a neutral off-white plaster," says Lynda. "I looked everywhere for a colour like this. It gives off a serene atmosphere. It's so neutral and doesn't show any strong undertones of yellow, pink or green." Popcorn is a popular warm off-white, chosen more often than any other by big-name Australian designers. It reads as a pure warm white in a space without turning cold. While Cumulus has a baked-in softness and warmth that has made it Cameron Kimber's go-to colour. Take a look at Bay Leaf (a versatile soft green) that is earthy, smudgy and warm without a hint of sweetness. Soothing hues are Hamptons Blue (a watery grey-blue), Hailstorm (a greyish-blue), Byzantine (a rich deep blue) and Newport Blue (the perfect blue). Aniseed (a warm black) is the best black around, according to designer Lynda Kerry, who has used it for all her homes and projects over the past 25 years. *porterspaints.com.au*

RESENE

If colour is your thing, come to this New Zealand company that sells its own line of paints in unique colours. It has a reputation among decorators for sophisticated tinting and colours that stay true long after they have been applied. Black White (a chalky soft grey-white) and Alabaster (a bisque grey-white) outsell everything in varying strengths. Other classics are Full or Half Sea Fog, (a versatile white with a hint of grey). Full or Half Rice Cake (a starchy white with the tiniest touch of yellow), Ironsand (a smoky brown-grey), Merino (a milky off-white with a green oxide undertone), Grey Friars (an earthy grey), Element (an earthy stone) and Natural (a lightly coloured warm timber that reads like wood). Pitch Black and All Black are excellent blacks. Half Spanish White is a longtime favourite among decorators. *resene.com.au*

TINT

This convenient online company produces Australian-made paints in a range of subtle, dusty, warm and irresistible on-trend colours, which you may have seen slicked on walls on social media by style-savvy renovators and decorators. For reliable neutrals, seek out the crisp white So Fresh and So Clean for a contemporary space, or try a light sandy beige, such as Only Yesterday, to warm a cool south-facing room. Or embrace colour with calming blue Old Town or the buttery Always Sunny. The beauty of Tint's edited, smaller colour range means the deliberation process is much simpler with choices limited to a select yet lovely few. Order a sample pack of the large peel-and-stick colour swatches to try out hues on your walls mess-free, then order tins of your chosen tints online. An environmentally conscious choice, too – water-based and virtually VOC-free. *tintpaint.com.au*

WATTYL

The top five paints here are Kitty Grey (a creamy greige), followed by Sydney Mist, which reads like the calming, slightly greyed-off blue of winter skies. City Path, a soft, faded green that exudes tranquillity and serenity, Westerly, a balanced muted green and Arid Land, an earthy warm neutral that goes with virtually any style of architecture and decor. The brand does all the usual lines of interior and exterior products that you would expect from a big-name brand, but decorators say it's especially brilliant for red. Have a look at the Wattyl Colour Selector to see what they mean. *wattyl.com.au*

Styling by Bree Banfield. Photograph by Lisa Cohen.

DULUX
Dulux offers a mind-boggling 5000 shades. When we asked Dulux for their most popular shades, they revealed that whites and pale tones, neutral and quiet hues rate best. These shades cocoon you without being overwhelming or attention-seeking. Thomas Hamel, one of Australia's greatest designers, is a huge fan. According to the legendary Australian brand's colour expert, Andrea Lucena-Orr, the best Dulux paint colours start with classic whites, such as the bright Vivid White™, warm Natural White™ and the versatile cool white, Lexicon®, used at award-winning boutique hotel Halcyon House. Other classics are Whisper White™ (a soft white), White on White, Snowy Mountains Full and Half, Terrace White, White Duck, Limed White, Casper White, White Exchange Half, White Polar Quarter and Antique White U.S.A.®, which was Melissa's choice for her harbourside Sydney apartment. Other great neutrals are Hog Bristle® Half and Quarter, Tranquil Retreat, Silver Tea Set, Feather Soft, Dieskau, Domino, Grand Piano Half, Ploughed Earth, Grey Pail, Silkwort, Beige Royal Half, Old Eagle, Timeless Grey, Raku, Owl Wing, Wistow and Pale Green Tea. Dulux's popular Wash and Wear® paint is ideal for those with busy lifestyles, children and pets, who want easy maintenance and walls that stay looking good for longer. Sells just about everywhere, but the website can help you find an outlet. *dulux.com.au* ▸

Walls and ceiling painted Dulux Slight Mushroom. Side table, LLH Studio. Chair, Space. Pendant light, Akari. Brown vessels, Craft Victoria. Rug, Designer Rugs.

ASCRAFT TEXTILES

A showroom with famous international wallpaper houses in the one place, from Lisa Fine and Peter Dunham to Christopher Farr and Galbraith & Paul. Ascraft also distributes environmentally friendly handcrafted grass weaves from plant fibres, rush cloths, paper weaves and textile wallcoverings. *ascraft.com.au*

BOYAC

Beautiful wallpapers for beautiful interiors. Designers are all fans of Thibaut, Création Baumann and Anna French. Full range of landscape murals that create a new kind of indoor-outdoor living, as well as eco-friendly grass weaves, vinyl wallcoverings and high-performance textiles. *thibautdesign.com*

BUNNINGS

Affordable, good-looking wallpaper options that are hard-wearing and practical. Start by searching the Nature category online, which includes winners such as 'Pindo Sage' and 'Botanics Forest Blue'. Then click on the Florals section for 'Amaira Orange'. *bunnings.com.au*

Photograph courtesy of Bauwerk Colour.

1

2

3

4

5

You can add a little drama to your walls without forking out for expensive surface materials. Whether you fancy experimenting with period details, the look of intricate ironwork or industrial concrete, the new breed of wallpapers has it covered. **1** 'Eden' **wallpaper**, Calico. **2** 'Abbotsford' standard colourway on Ullswater Blue India **tea paper**, de Gournay. **3** 'Almeria' **fabric** in Aqua, Colefax & Fowler. **4** Mulberry **wallpaper**, Elliott Clarke. **5** Ralph Lauren 'Alcea' floral **fabric** in High Noon, IconRadford. **OPPOSITE** Exterior in Bauwerk Colour **limewash** Still. Design by Rama Architects.

WALLPAPER

Here's where leading designers shop. You're welcome to look but many of these will need to be ordered through your upholsterer or interior decorator.

CALICO WALLPAPER

Once custom wallpaper had to be painted entirely by hand. But a new cadre of designers like Calico, launched in New York in 2017, is offering digitally printed, mural-like scenes that can be endlessly customised to look like bespoke wallpaper for a lot less. You can get a massively scaled, one-of-a-kind pattern that wraps around your room like an original artwork. You can print a non-repeating artwork for huge areas on different panels, then overlap and double cut them to create a seamless mural like 'Eden', 'Heartwood', 'Muse', 'Overgrow' or 'Paradiso'. *calicowallpaper.com*

DE GOURNAY

The London-based company allows you to customise any aspect of the design, from the background colours to the pattern itself, and to specify surfaces that range from handmade rice paper to gold-gilded silk. The approach demands patience; it takes two to four months to complete made-to-measure designs, and up to six months for the bespoke designs. These hand-painted papers are a significant investment, yet they are subtly different from ones made by machine, with an elegant quality, charming irregularities and a given cycle never repeats itself, so no two birds in a scene are alike. *degournay.com*

DOMUS TEXTILES

A godsend for those who want perennial wallpaper classics for advanced decorating needs by Colefax & Fowler, Jane Churchill, Manuel Canovas, Larsen, Nina Campbell, Matthew Williamson and Osborne & Little. Colefax & Fowler has given plaids and stripes a settled-in effect for its latest collections while Osborne & Little has integrated colour into its woven range, which derives from age old paper-weaving techniques, as seen in the 'Papyrus' wallcovering. *domustextiles.com.au*

ELLIOTT CLARKE

A wallpaper kingdom for acclaimed brands such as Lee Jofa, Oscar de la Renta, Kravet, Brunschwig & Fils, Mulberry and GP & J Baker, who has just debuted its first collaboration with Kit Kemp, in which the British designer's eclectic style is evident. The trove of prints reimagines archival imagery in new colourways, plus a few original creations. Featuring animal-emblazoned, hand-painted, folkloric plates by ceramicist Robina Jack (beloved by Kit), Robina's 'Dinner Party' wallpaper is a timeless classic in the making. *elliottclarke.com.au*

ICONRADFORD

Get three famous wallpaper houses in one place here: Ralph Lauren, Designers Guild, and Cole & Son. Also, Boråstapeter, Christian Lacroix, House of Hackney, Marvic Textiles, John Derian and Kvadrat collections, where you can have fun with animal motifs, florals, landscapes, follies, streetscapes or faux libraries. The English country house aesthetic is top-of-mind in the new Ralph Lauren collections, which are brimming with moody faded florals and withered roses, a mix of plaids, damasks and traditional prints in muted hues, such as 'Espalier Vintage Rose'. *iconradford.com*

MILGATE

A wallpaper paradise and a favourite with our A-list designers. Go for top-tier faves packed with authentic charm, such as Jim Thompson, Holland & Sherry, Braquenié, Le Manach, Boussac, and Thorp Of London – in animal prints, geometrics, florals, ikats, Chinoiseries, and panoramics in small and wide widths. Be stunned by Pierre Frey textured wallcoverings, many made in partnership with artisans adapting their craft for interiors. Straw, wood and other natural materials continue to take over these artistic palettes. *milgate.com.au*

MILTON & KING

The Australian-made quality papers are used in beautiful homes all over the country. Melissa used a timeless yet fresh blue Chinoiserie pattern recently to smarten up her Sydney powder room. It has the most divine styles: expressionist, shibori, damask, geometrics, Art Deco,

▶

SELECTING THE BEST STYLE FOR YOUR SPACE

When choosing a wallpaper, the biggest factor is the size of your room. This will determine the scale of the paper. Smaller rooms generally require smaller prints. For large spaces, wallpaper will make a bold statement with large patterns. To sample your top choices, buy one roll, pin the paper up to your wall and leave it for a while. Look at it in the morning light, midday light and evening light to be sure you love the way it looks in all its moods. And if you do love it, well, that's the one for you!

Photograph courtesy of Rebel Walls.

botanical, English country house and more. For a playful touch of the unexpected, we love 'Road Runner' and 'Frontier'. *miltonandking.com*

PORTER'S PAINTS

The paint company also makes in-house wallpaper and grasscloths, handcrafted using natural weaves backed on to premium paper. As well as botanical-inspired 'Banskia', 'Dandelion' and 'Quill', they sell international names such as Catherine Martin, Christian Lacroix, Casamance, Cole & Son, Designers Guild, House of Hackney, Nina Campbell and Osborne & Little. *porterspaints.com.au*

REBEL WALLS

Across the wide range of patterns, these digital print papers are popular for imbuing rooms with subtle lightness, as opposed to a stuffier opulence. There are botanical panoramas of lush forests, rolling hills, and luxurious swaying palm trees, as well as ubiquitous leaf prints and serene, cloud-like landscapes. There are lots of whimsical papers for a child's bedroom, a hallway or dining room, to bring a welcome touch of the unexpected with topsy-turvy animal motifs. *rebelwalls.com*

SENECA

A wallpaper heaven with names such as Osborne & Little, Nina Campbell and Élitis, who dialled up the colour this year daring to go to new psychedelic extremes, as illustrated by the hypnotising 'Arabesque' wallpaper. Other favourites by Élitis are 'Kintsugi' and 'Tribus'. Also, Matthew Williamson designs, which are perfect if you want to make a statement. This is also the place to source sustainable Omexco wallcoverings, an eco-conscious Belgian company. *seneca.co.nz*

SOUTH PACIFIC FABRICS

Beautiful wallpapers from Armani Casa, Dedar, Lelièvre, Liberty London and Rubelli, including Luke Edward Hall's new collection for Rubelli, which contains all the interests and creativity of its author with his favourite hues of dusty violet, olive green and mustard splashed across the range. Also beautiful are the designs by Scalamandré, from leaping antelopes to leopards and zebras with great movement on colourful, high-contrast backgrounds, plus Chinoiserie-printed and metallic grasscloths. *southpacificfabrics.com*

THE FABRIC EDITORS

The online company has great papers by Anna Spiro, Arte, Brunschwig & Fils, Catherine Martin, Christian Lacroix, Designers Guild, Kelly Wearstler, Mokum, Cole & Son, Morris & Co, Ralph Lauren, Osborne & Little, Schumacher and Sanderson, who opted for blossoms on cream and beige grounds for its newest collections. Everything from Cole & Son's 'Procuratie con Vista' to Sanderson's 'Mickey & Minnie' wallpaper in Allsorts, reissued from the original wallpaper designs created by Sanderson for Disney in 1934. *thefabriceditors.com.au*

TIGGER HALL DESIGN

Tigger Hall, who has showrooms in Sydney and the Southern Highlands of NSW, has made names like Rose Tarlow and Kathryn M. Ireland her own, but is also good for hard-to-find lines like Carolina Irving, Allegra Hicks, Nicole Fabre, Elizabeth Hamilton, Jennifer Shorto and many more. For wallpapers, Melissa loves Rose Tarlow striped and chequered designs that can be paired with any fabric and read like neutrals. *tiggerhalldesign.com*

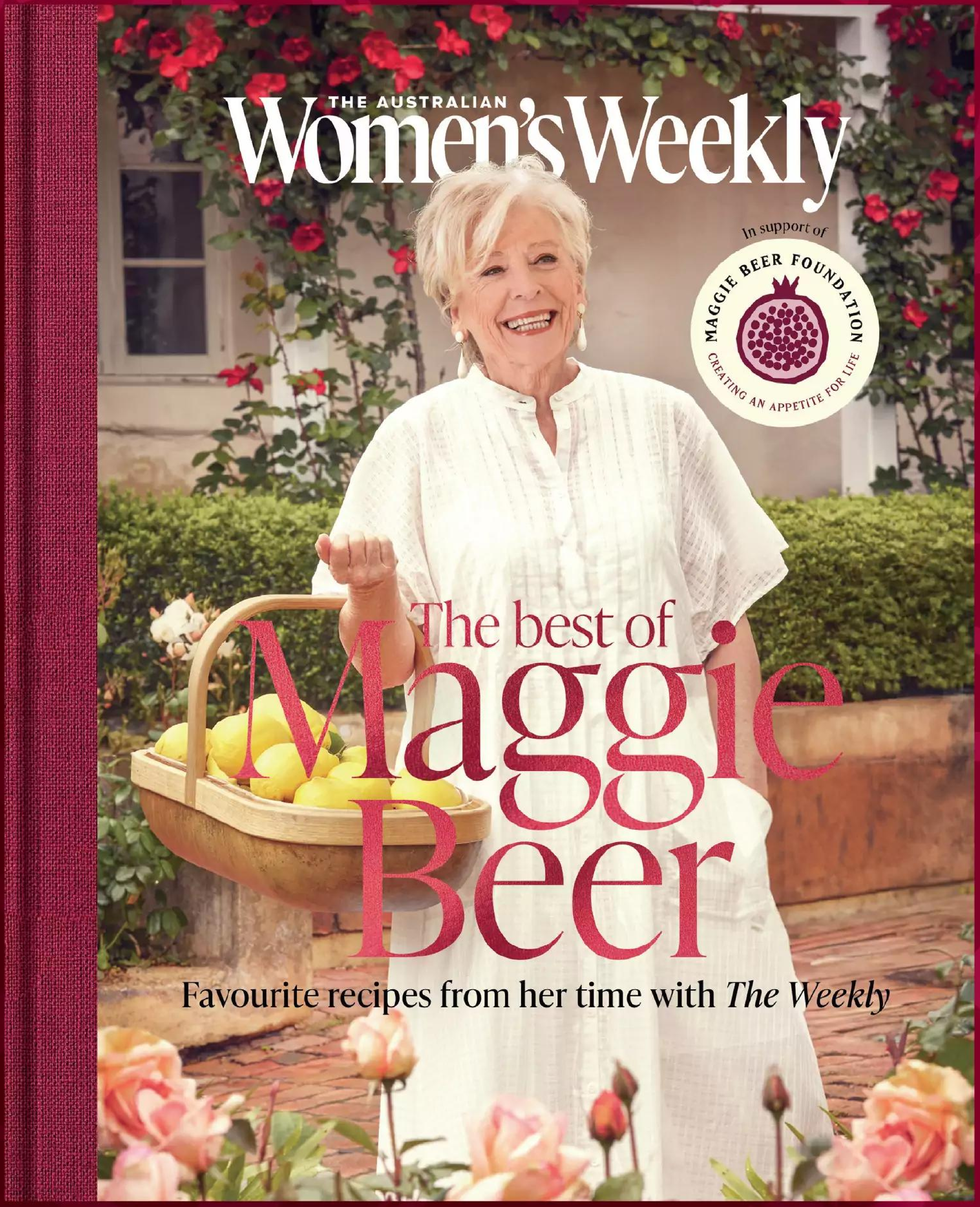
UNIQUE FABRICS

An essential for good-looking options that are hard-wearing and practical, including Carlucci, Chivasso, Zimmer + Rohde and Arte, who debuted the Hawaiian-inspired 'Lanai' wallcovering collection at Paris Déco Off, featuring handcrafted rattan and raffia inlaid embroidery details. *uniquefabrics.com.au* **H&G**

Next month
LAMPS

1 Thibaut 'Bucks' **wallcovering** in Camel, Boyac. 2 Arte 'Lanai Kailua' **wallcovering** in 81500, Unique Fabrics. 3 Rose Tarlow Sea Leaves' **screen paper** in Vanilla/Seafoam, Tigger Hall Design. 4 'Samar' neutral animal/trees **wallpaper** in Taupe, Bunnings. 5 Thibaut 'Stonnington' **wallpaper** in Spa Blue, Boyac. **OPPOSITE** 'The Green Forest' **wallpaper** in Morning, Rebel Walls.

Celebrate the heart-warming flavours *of* Maggie Beer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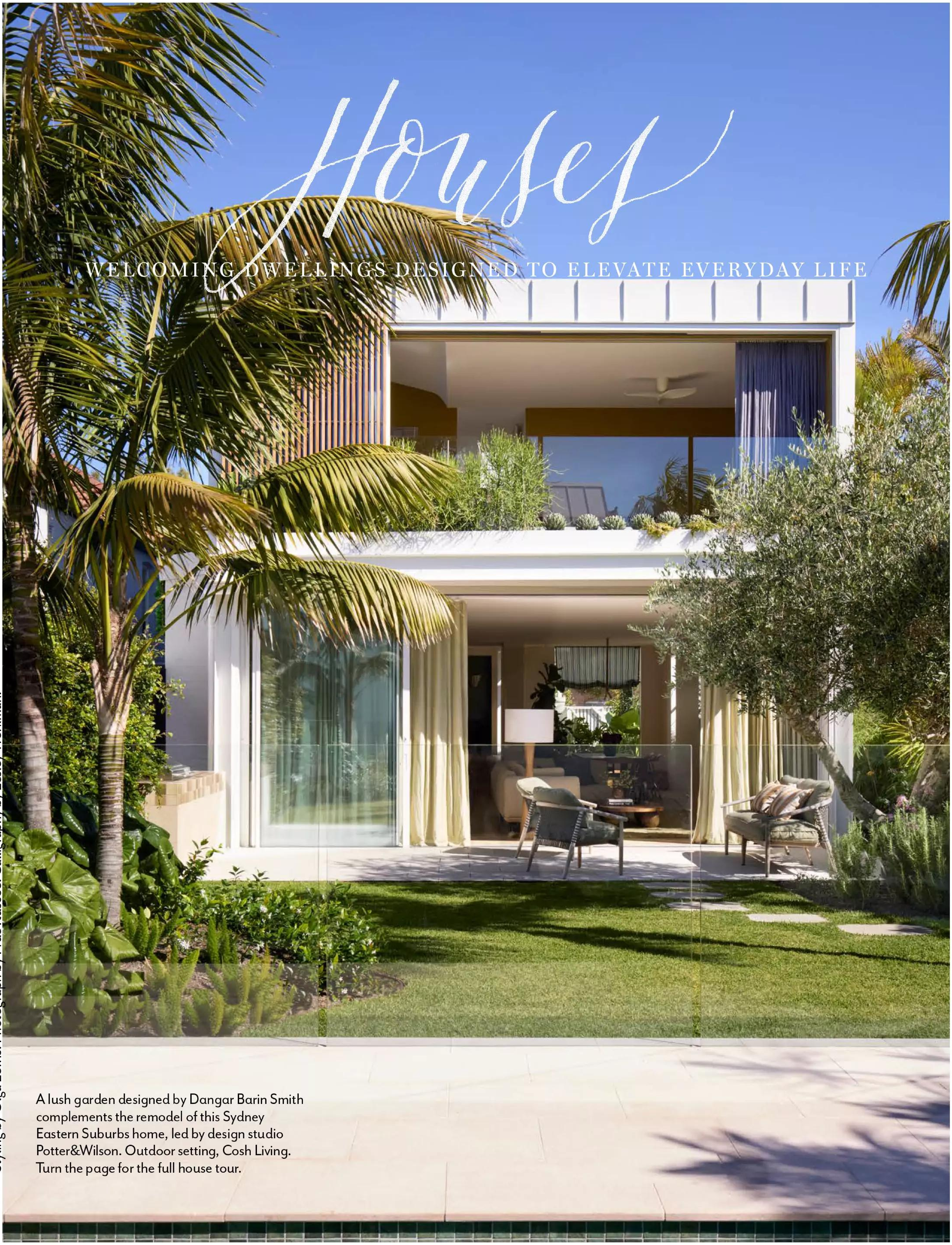
Houses

WELCOMING DWELLINGS DESIGNED TO ELEVATE EVERYDAY LIFE



A lush garden designed by Dangar Barin Smith complements the remodel of this Sydney Eastern Suburbs home, led by design studio Potter&Wilson. Outdoor setting, Cosh Living. Turn the page for the full house tour.

Styling by Olga Lewis. Photograph by Prue Ruscoe. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

EXTERIOR The decorative verandah and facade of this Federation house in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs has been restored and painted Dulux Surfmist. **ENTRANCE** Old meets new at the entrance, where a pivot door by Estalis lends a contemporary look to the heritage facade. Path in Hampton Quartz random cobblestones, GatherCo. Oak floorboards in Wheat Fields, Royal Oak Floors.

FAMILY *haven*

A young couple swap life in the dark for a sun-drenched, dreamy renovation of their Federation home in Sydney's east.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Olga Lewis* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*

> “Part of the brief was for a neutral palette as a backdrop, with colour injected via furniture and finishes.”
>
> IMOGENE POTTER, ARCHITECT

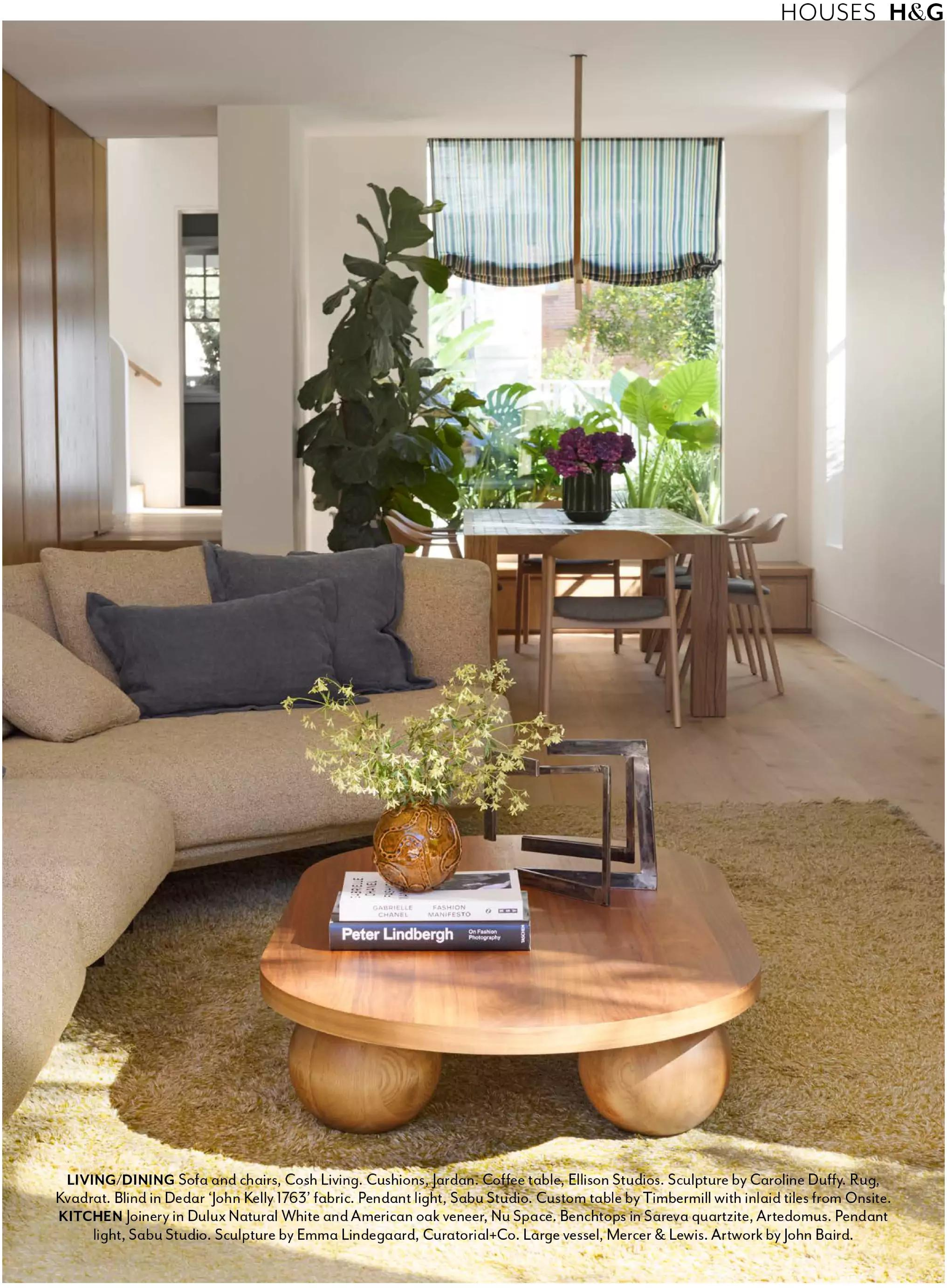
LIVING Walls painted Dulux Natural White. Curtains in Designs of the Time ‘Guarani’ linen in YP20003. ‘Feathertop’ sofa, and Kett ‘Forrest’ outdoor lounge setting, all Cosh Living. ‘Duke’ cushions in Ocean, Jardan. Tulipán floor lamp by Isabel Moncada, Adorno. ‘Yoko’ coffee table in Oak, Ellison Studios. *Aspect 1* sculpture on coffee table by Caroline Duffy, Curatorial+Co. ‘Silhouette’ rug, Kvadrat. **KITCHEN** ‘Onu Duo’ pendant light, Sabu Studio. Benchtop in Sareva quartzite, Artedomus. J’Jute tray, Dunlin.

With its flat, north-to-rear block of land this two-storey, Federation-era home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs offered plenty of scope for the willing buyers, Jonathan and Olivia. Its attractive Queen Anne-style features added to its desirability, as did the favourable location close to Centennial Park, and the couple could foresee a happy future in the home for themselves and their children, now aged five and one.

The house was large with multiple rooms but the floorplan and interior design were tired and dated and sections of the original structure were degraded. Jonathan comments wryly, "Both our mothers were horrified at what we had bought!" No surprise then that the couple were keen to get the renovation process underway and decided not to move in after settlement. Instead they stayed in their former property and engaged architects Imogene Potter and Simon Wilson of Potter Wilson for the sweeping makeover.

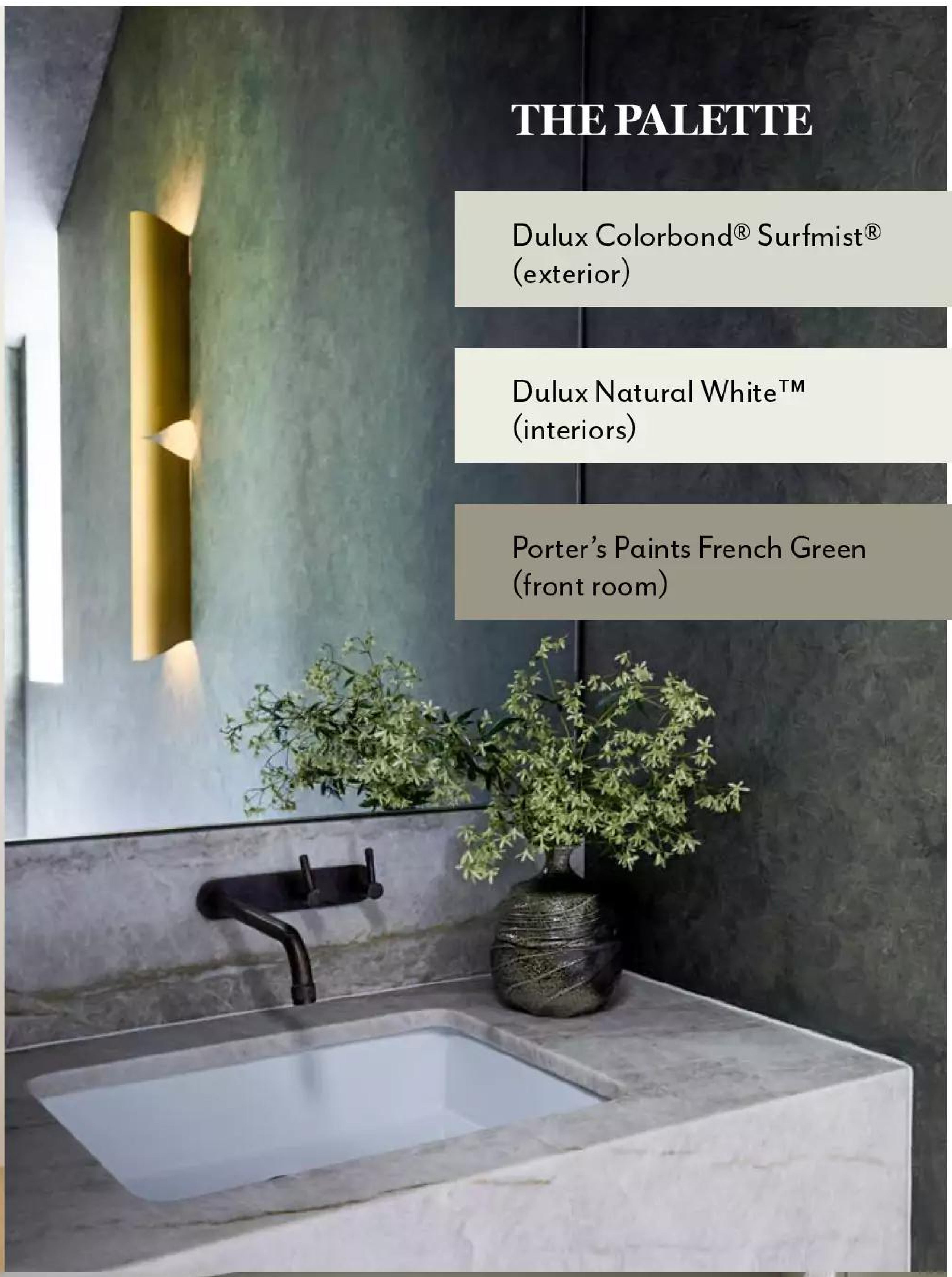
One of the stand-out features was a bell-cast apron on the two-storey verandah at the front of the house that originally would have been clad in shingles. However, over the years the cladding had been replaced by timber boards and the entire shape altered by enclosing the downstairs area. This became the starting point for the architects' design, says Imogene, "to reveal the original turn-of-the-century structure and reinstate the shingled verandah".

In addition to restoring the home's handsome facade, the architects conceived a dynamic contemporary extension at the rear, acting as the new family living, dining and kitchen area, a pertinent response to the couple's desire for a bright and airy home connected to the garden and pool. ▶


GABRIELLE CHANEL
FASHION MANIFESTO
Peter Lindbergh
On Fashion Photography
TASCHEN

LIVING/DINING Sofa and chairs, Cosh Living. Cushions, Jardan. Coffee table, Ellison Studios. Sculpture by Caroline Duffy. Rug, Kvadrat. Blind in Dedar 'John Kelly 1763' fabric. Pendant light, Sabu Studio. Custom table by Timbermill with inlaid tiles from Onsite. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Dulux Natural White and American oak veneer, Nu Space. Benchtops in Sareva quartzite, Artedomus. Pendant light, Sabu Studio. Sculpture by Emma Lindegaard, Curatorial+Co. Large vessel, Mercer & Lewis. Artwork by John Baird.

HALLWAY *Blue Day* artwork by John Baird. Disderot lamp, Dunlin. Red ceramic by Joseph Turrin, The DEA Store. Blind in Dedar 'John Kelly 1763' fabric. Oak floorboards in Wheat Fields, Royal Oak Floors. **POWDER ROOM** *Opposite, top* Walls painted Porter's Paints French Wash in Antiquity with Olive Grove base. Vanity in Sareva quartzite, Artedomus. 'Yokato' tapware, Brodware. 'Double Leaf' wall sconce, Daniel Boddam. **FRONT ROOM** *Opposite, below* Walls painted Porter's Paints French Green. 'Nina' modular sofa, Jardan. Vintage Vitra 'Noguchi' coffee table. Vase, The DEA Store. Wall lights, Oko Olo. Oi Soi Oi light fittings, Tigmi Trading. *Wilderness* artwork by Marion Abraham. Moroccan Beni Souf rug, Loom.



THE PALETTE

Dulux Colorbond® Surfmist® (exterior)

Dulux Natural White™ (interiors)

Porter's Paints French Green (front room)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

"The original bell-cast form was a catalyst for the way the new rear addition was detailed," says Imogene. "The bell-cast 'kick' of the verandah was reinterpreted with the roof design over the bedroom in the extension and the cladding detail near the entry."

Imogene says the new addition respects the restored front part of the house, and enhances the original features without obscuring or distorting them.

A formal living room now occupies the front of the house on the ground level and leads to the reinstated open verandah. Behind, an organically curved staircase forms part of the entrance, flooded with natural light from a judiciously placed skylight. Upstairs, the main bedroom and sitting area overlook the back garden, with privacy ensured due to a lushly greened planter box that edges the sliding doors. Three other bedrooms are on this level, with one utilised as a study.

The family living area downstairs segues seamlessly through large sliding doors into the garden designed by Dangar Barin Smith. "The aluminium door frames are minimalist and recessed into the ceiling and floor to minimise their intrusion into the space," says Imogene.

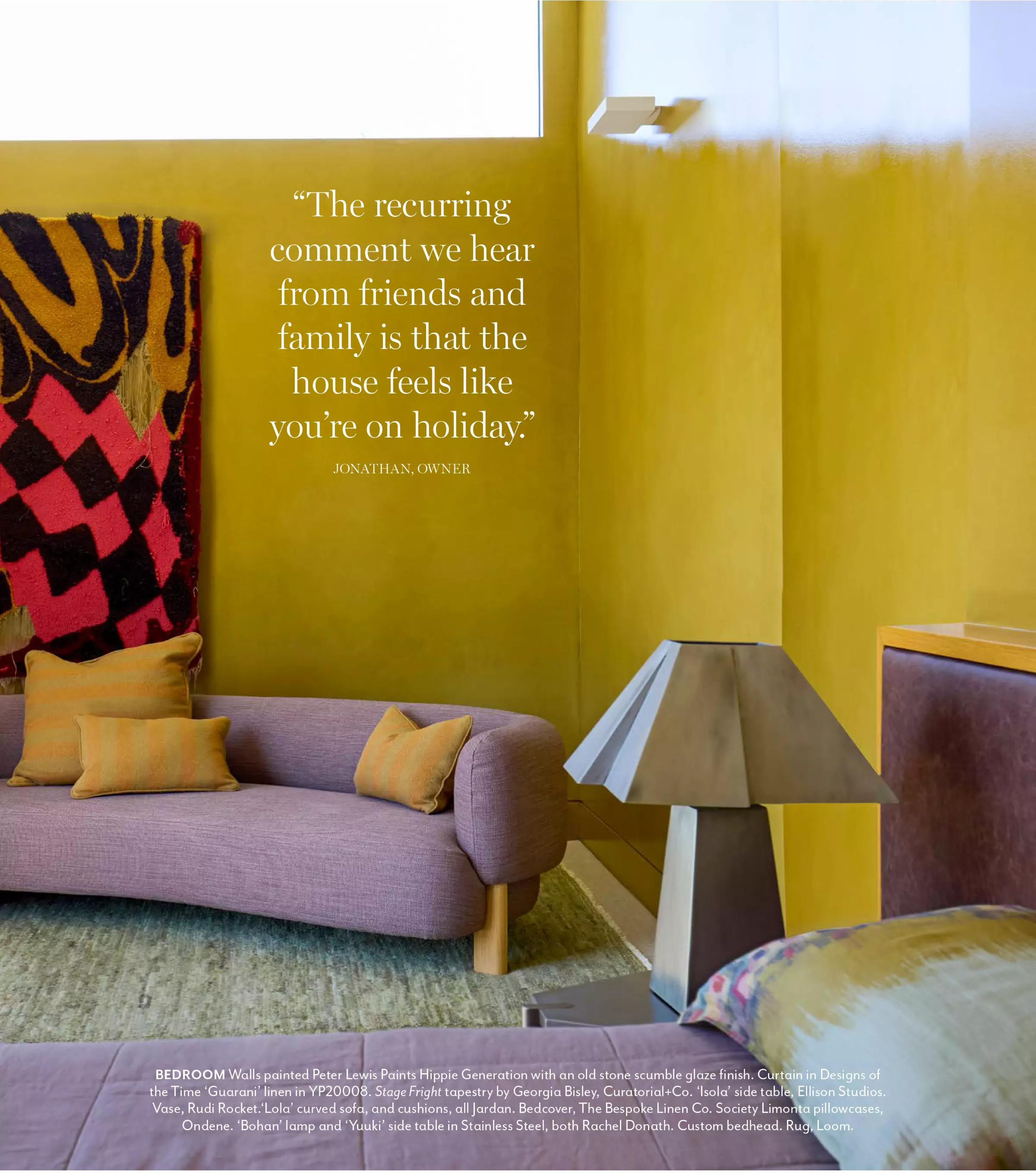
As the couple had lived in a dark terrace for many years they were looking forward to a light-filled home. "Part of the brief was for a neutral palette as a backdrop with colour injected via furniture and finishes," says Imogene. Oak flooring and quartzite stone ticked the box for softly hued, natural materials.

Dulux Natural White was used throughout the interior for a fresh finish while in the older part of the house a darker shade, Porter's Paints French Green, was selected as a contrast and to create the ambience of a more intimate environment. The exterior was painted a soft white, Dulux Colorbond Surfmist, to unite the old and new, allowing the various materials – timber, brickwork, shingles, stone and metal – to become textural elements.

With rear-lane access, the double garage bookends the property with the studio above set up as a work-from-home space, but it can double as guest accommodation also, kitted out with a bathroom and enjoying a serene outlook to the treetops.

The home perfectly unites functionality and luxury, providing the family with a secluded, sun-drenched haven. "The recurring comment we hear from friends and family is that the house feels like you're on holiday," says Jonathan. "With all the palm trees in the garden and the pool it really does have a very relaxed vibe." ▶

***Potter&Wilson:** potterandwilson.com. **Dangar Barin Smith:** dangarbarinsmith.com.au. **Estalis:** Estalis.com.au.*



> “The recurring comment we hear from friends and family is that the house feels like you’re on holiday.”
>
> JONATHAN, OWNER

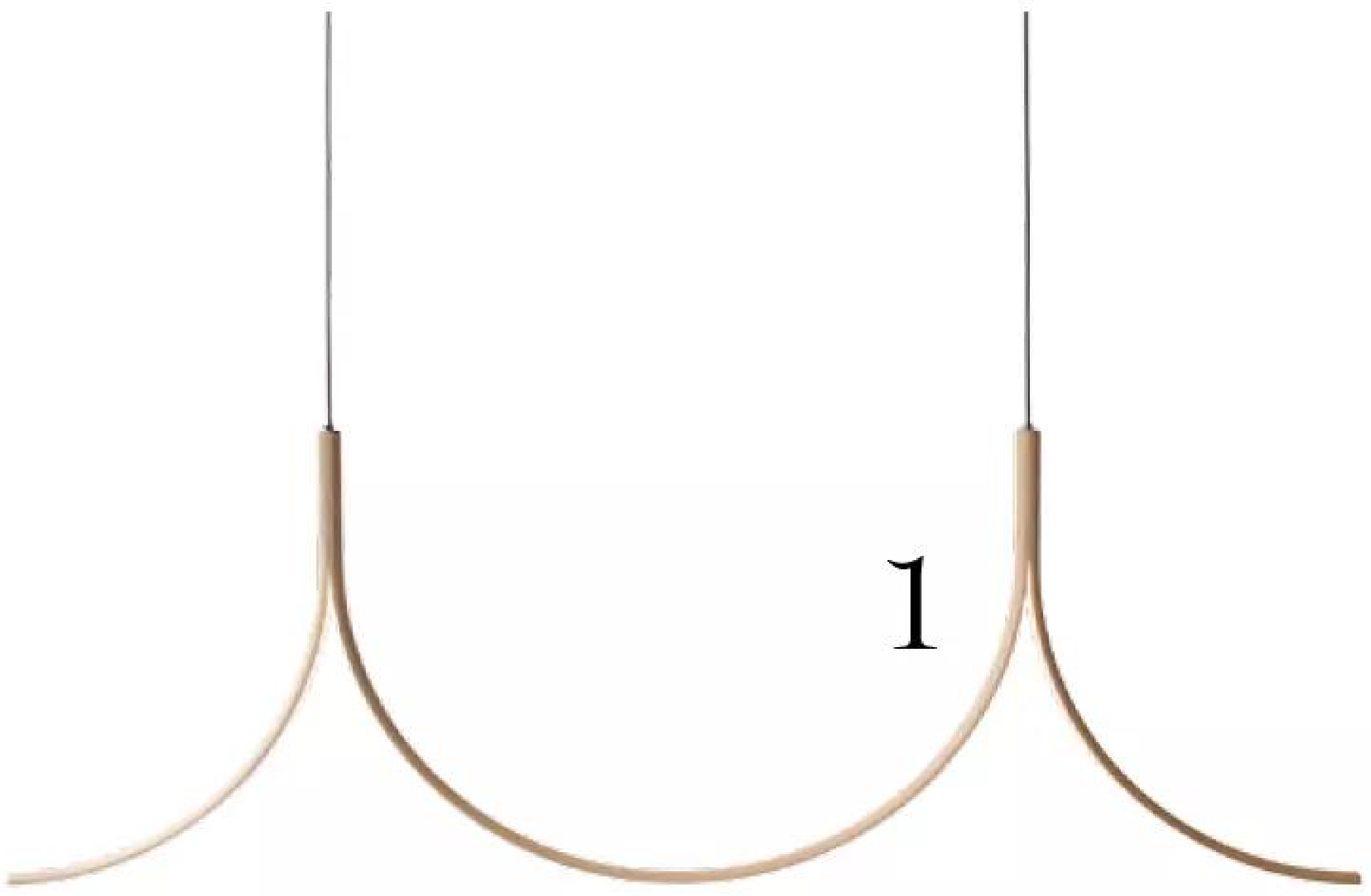
BEDROOM Walls painted Peter Lewis Paints Hippie Generation with an old stone scumble glaze finish. Curtain in Designs of the Time ‘Guarani’ linen in YP20008. *Stage Fright* tapestry by Georgia Bisley, Curatorial+Co. ‘Isola’ side table, Ellison Studios. Vase, Rudi Rocket.‘Lola’ curved sofa, and cushions, all Jardan. Bedcover, The Bespoke Linen Co. Society Limonta pillowcases, Ondene. ‘Bohan’ lamp and ‘Yuuki’ side table in Stainless Steel, both Rachel Donath. Custom bedhead. Rug, Loom.

THIS IS THE LIFE

After years spent living in a dark terrace, Olivia and Jonathan love the natural light that streams into their new home through skylights and windows that capture views of the landscape. "It's a relaxed space where we welcome our family and friends," says Jonathan. "The outdoor area is a sanctuary with the pool, lush green lawns and dappled light beneath the palm and olive trees."

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING Dangar Barin Smith designed a lush garden to complement the house. Kett 'Forrest' outdoor lounge setting, Cosh Living. **LIVING** Sofa and chairs, Cosh Living. Cushions, Jardan. Tulipán floor lamp by Isabel Moncada, Adorno. Coffee table, Ellison Studios. Sculpture by Caroline Duffy. Rug, Kvadrat. Pendant lights, Sabu Studio. Custom dining table, Timbermill. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Dulux Natural White and in American oak veneer, Nu Space. Benchtops in Sareva quartzite, Artedomus.

POOL AREA The studio above the garage overlooks the pool, surrounded by the lush garden by Dangar Barin Smith. External walls painted Dulux Surfmist.



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THE SOURCE

Embrace the movement towards lived-in interiors, collecting retro-style finds in interesting shapes and warm tones.

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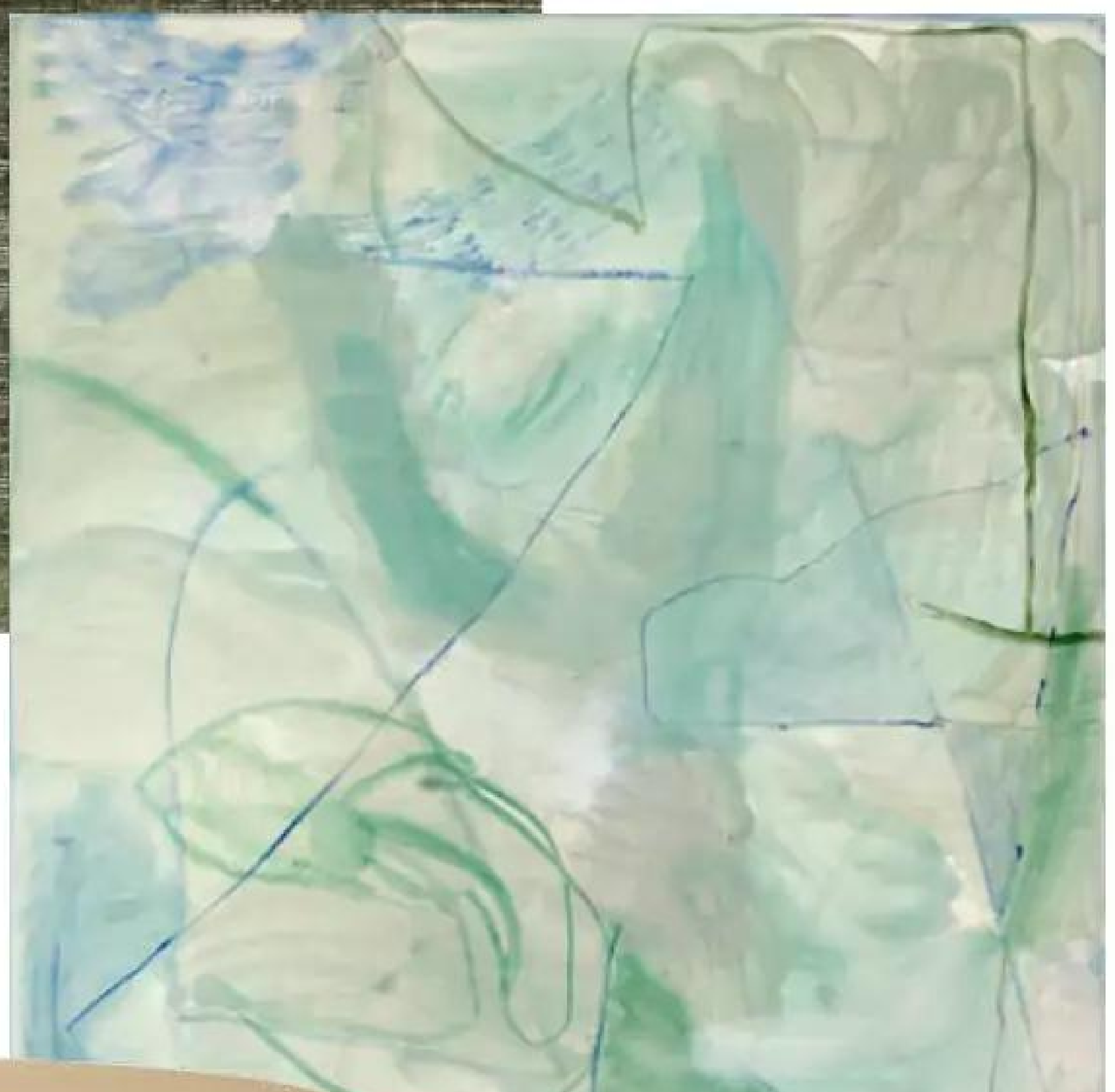

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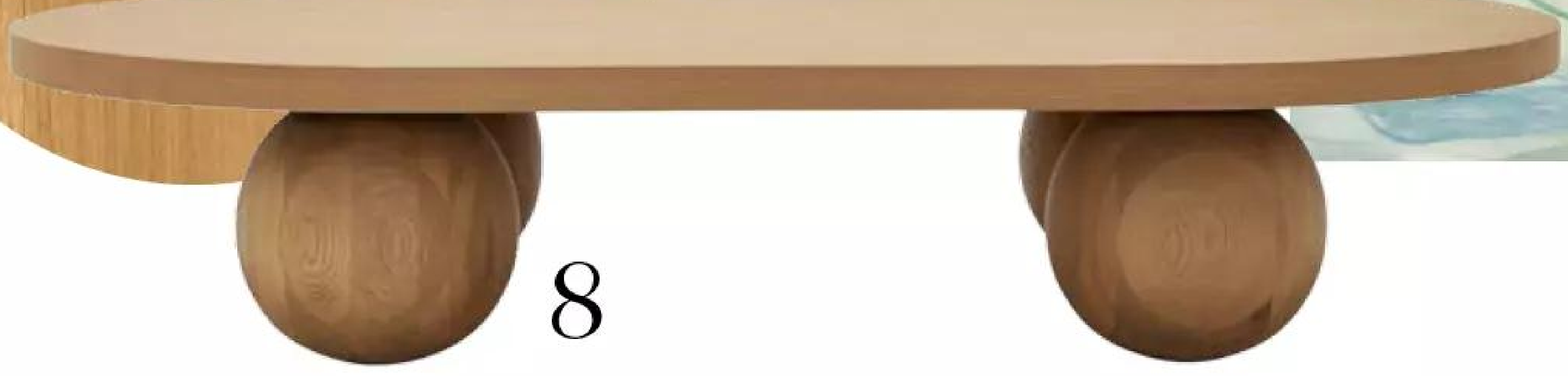

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10

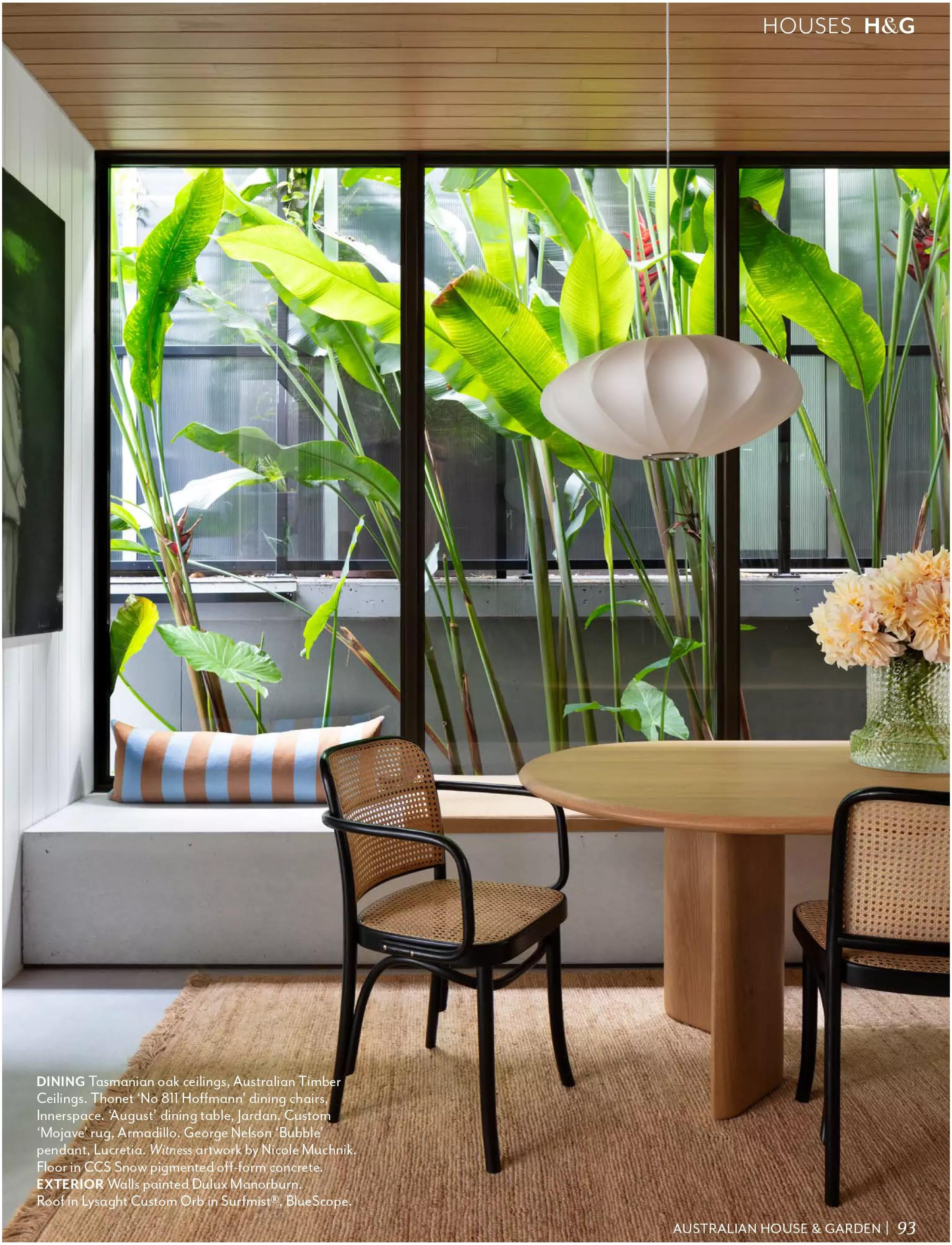
Produced by Bethan Lacoba.

1 'Onu Duo' **pendant light**, POA, Sabu Studio. 2 Kristalia 'Brioni' **sofa**, POA, Fanuli. 3 'Elements' **rug** in Green (300x200cm), $2349, Freedom. 4 McMullin 'Ivy' **vase**, $129, Life Interiors. 5 'Murphy' counter **stool** in Mushroom, $129, Freedom. 6 Plantino 'Regal' engineered oak **flooring** in Eiger, POA, Choices Flooring. 7 'Cloud II' marble **sculpture**, $690, Rachel Donath. 8 'Yoko Capsule' **coffee table** in Oak, $2399, Ellison Studios. 9 *Hello I'm Awake Now* **artwork** by Diana Miller, $7800, Curatorial+Co. 10 Disderot floor and **table lamp**, $4698, Dunlin. **H&G**

TRUE *love*

An iconic Queenslander embraces the future with a bold extension and vibrant furnishings, while also honouring its colourful past.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Françoise Baudet*

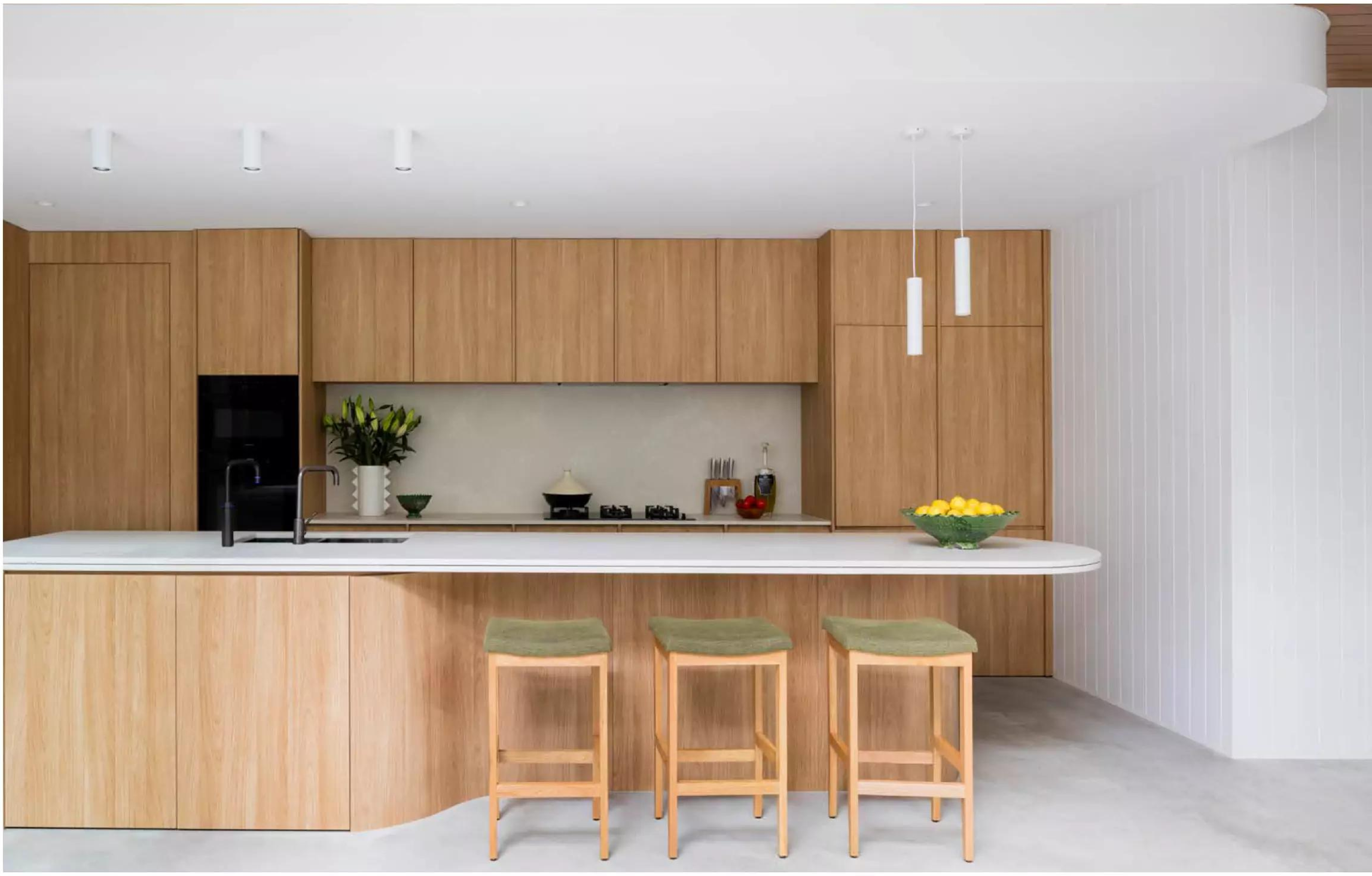


DINING Tasmanian oak ceilings, Australian Timber Ceilings. Thonet 'No 811 Hoffmann' dining chairs, Innerspace. 'August' dining table, Jardan. Custom 'Mojave' rug, Armadillo. George Nelson 'Bubble' pendant, Lucretia. *Witness* artwork by Nicole Muchnik. Floor in CCS Snow pigmented off-form concrete. **EXTERIOR** Walls painted Dulux Manorburn. Roof in Lysaght Custom Orb in Surfmist®, BlueScope.

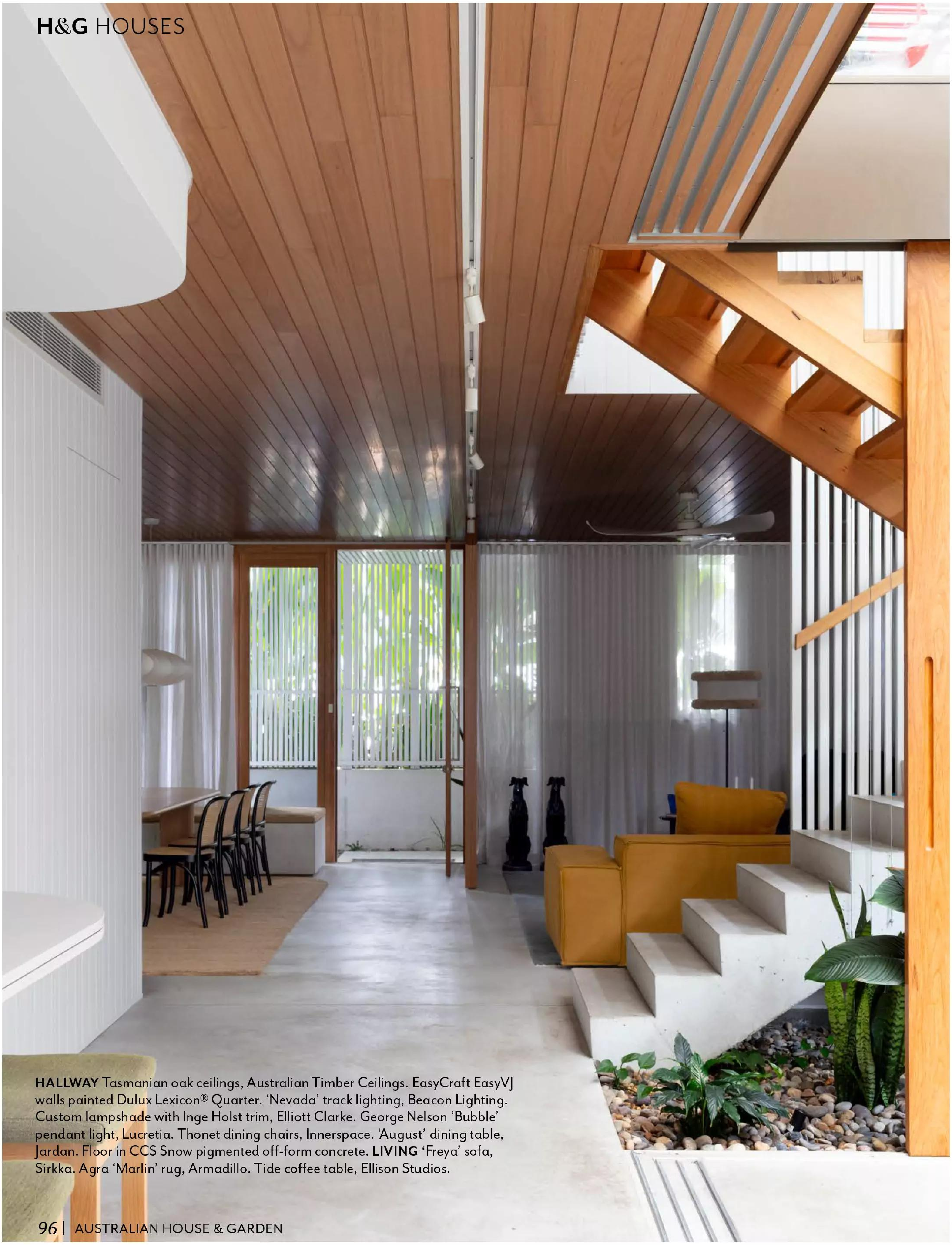
For owner Kristen, this smart four-bedroom Queenslander in inner Brisbane was a case of back to the future. She and her husband began married life in a heritage weatherboard cottage, with its air of romance, and then left for the suburbs to raise four children, now adults.

"I had long wanted to return to a Queenslander, but with a modern extension," she says. "Combining the modern and the classic, this is the best of both worlds." Old boldly meets new and, in a nod to the former, the home is named "Saoir", Gaelic-Scottish for craftsman, a tribute to the two immigrants who crafted the 19th-century cottages.

Kristen and her husband first crossed the threshold in 2022 on their way to another home auction, which they never reached. Instead, it was love at first sight for this inspired take on a classic designed by Refresh Studio for Architecture. Two years before, principals Erhard Rathmayr and Monika Obrist had bought the house, then a derelict cottage, and transformed it by gutting the front and adding a light-soaked extension with a massive kitchen, indoor-outdoor spaces framed with hanging gardens and crisp concrete. "I fell in love with it, especially how it opened up. It was just me," says Kristen. ▶



KITCHEN EasyCraft EasyVJ walls painted Dulux Lexicon® Quarter. Joinery in Laminex oak veneer. Benchtop in YDL Cloudy Grey, YDL Stone. Lights, Caribou. 'Eden' tapware in Gunmetal, ABI Interiors. Miele appliances, Winnings. Didier 'Congo' bar stools, Ebb+Flow Design. Green bowl on bench, Tigmi Trading. White vase, Ellison Studios. Floor in CCS Snow pigmented off-form concrete.



HALLWAY Tasmanian oak ceilings, Australian Timber Ceilings. EasyCraft EasyVJ walls painted Dulux Lexicon® Quarter. 'Nevada' track lighting, Beacon Lighting. Custom lampshade with Inge Holst trim, Elliott Clarke. George Nelson 'Bubble' pendant light, Lucretia. Thonet dining chairs, Innerspace. 'August' dining table, Jardan. Floor in CCS Snow pigmented off-form concrete. **LIVING** 'Freya' sofa, Sirkka. Agra 'Marlin' rug, Armadillo. Tide coffee table, Ellison Studios.

“Celebrating Brisbane’s rich history of timber homes, the renovation treasures the cottage by sensitively bringing it back to its previous glory while making it fit for the 21st century with respectful and sympathetic contemporary additions,” says Monika. Thanks to external screening and lush fast-growing plants, the design optimises light and cross-ventilation without sacrificing privacy, while a central stairway and courtyard anchor the whole. “This double-height space allows vistas through the house and generates lightness and spaciousness,” adds Erhard.

On the ground level, the concrete floor, walls and built-in banquette are not only handsome but also provide energy-saving thermal mass. They are offset by timber ceilings and joinery for visual warmth, while external weatherboards are faithful to the Queenslander vernacular. For the furnishings, vibrant Kristen, a fan of colour, called in decorator Gabrielle Reinhardt of Gabrielle Reinhardt Interiors to add pizzazz to a neutral canvas. She in turn took cues from the couple’s artworks, the brush strokes echoed in her selections.

“Kristen and her husband started afresh with the furnishings to create a more contemporary vibe that better suited their new home and empty-nester lifestyles,” says Gabrielle. “It was hard coming from a really big house,” adds Kristen. “There was little room for our old furniture and in some cases, it simply didn’t work.”

On a practical level, the dining areas inside and out needed to accommodate 10-plus people at one time, but also feel intimate for just two. Meanwhile, two of the bedrooms were decorated as guest bedrooms for two adult children who live interstate, while another was repurposed as a nursery for a grandchild.

Owner and decorator started from scratch, beginning with Kristen’s curvaceous B&B Italia ‘La Mamma’ armchair, while the couple’s eclectic artworks also came to the party. “The moody painting in the living room sets the tone, lending drama and a touch of fun,” says Gabrielle. A blue-grey wool rug sets off a russet linen sofa. “The palette of warm neutrals, rusts and blues complements the architecture. ▸

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon® Quarter (hallway)

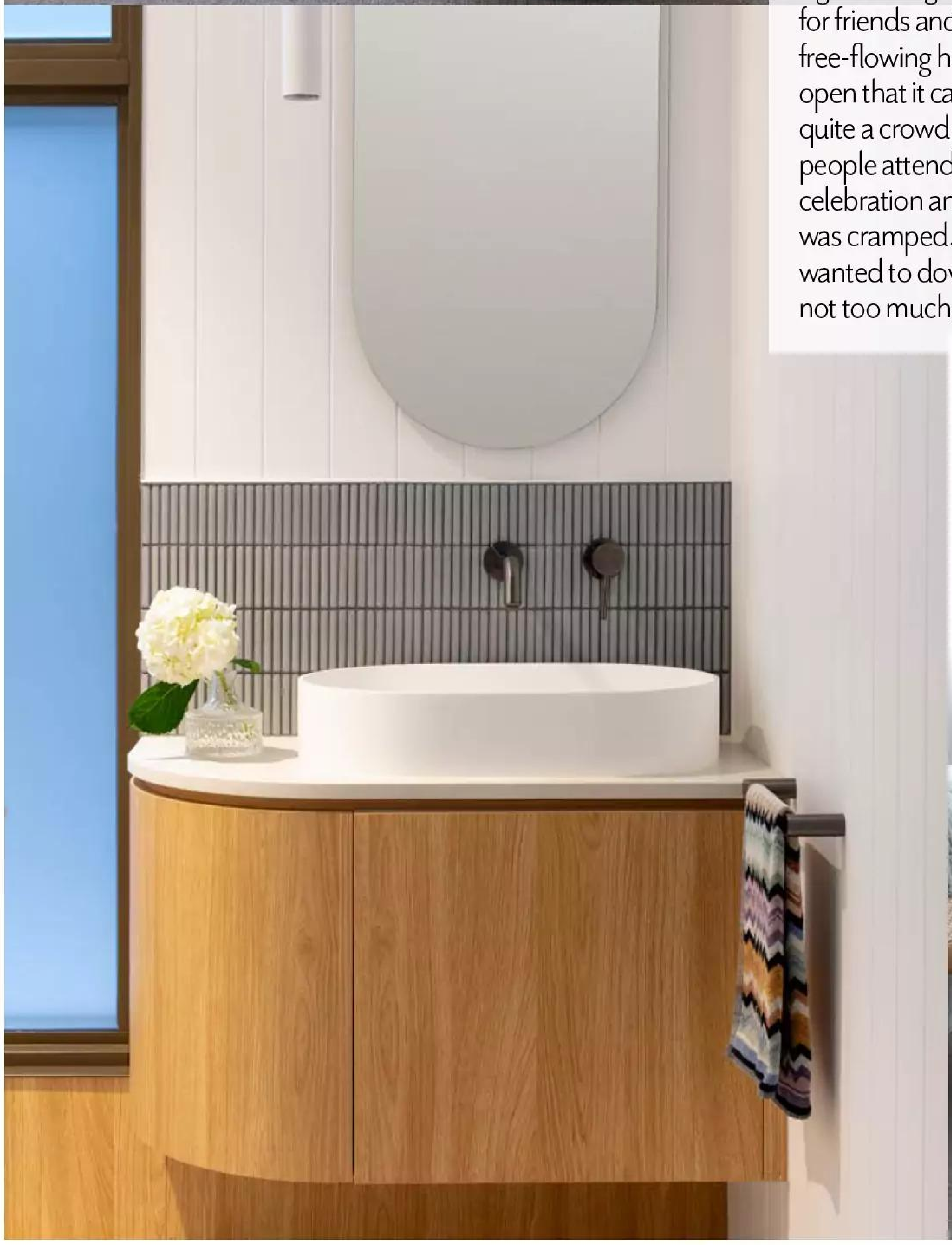
Dulux Manorburn (courtyard walls)

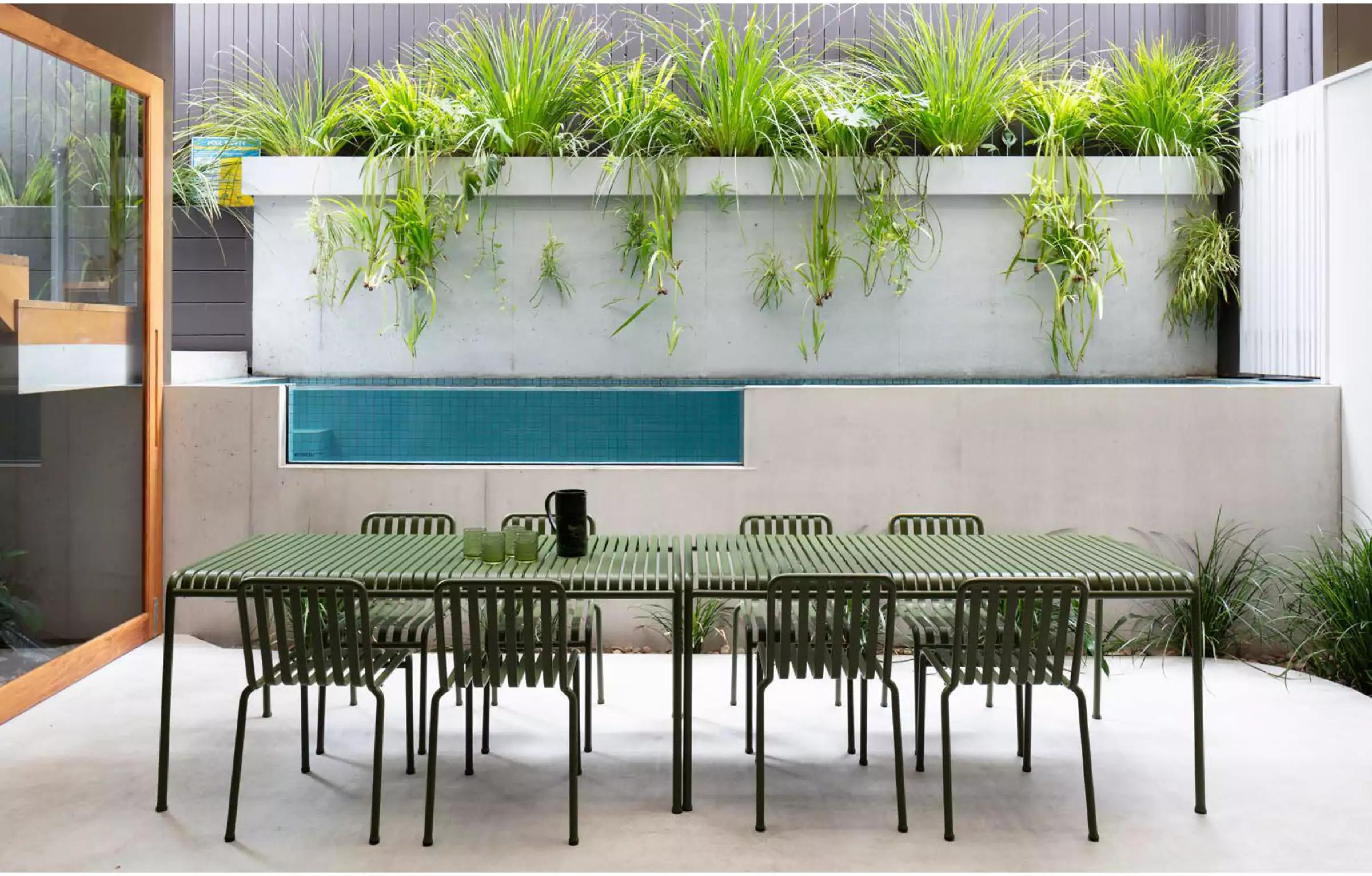
Colorbond® Surfmist® (roofing)

ENSUITE 'Chub' stool, Fearon. Joinery in Laminex oak veneer. Benchtop in YDL Cloudy Grey, YDL Stone. Finger tiles in Opal Light Grey, Johnson Tiles. 'Stari' floor tiles, ASA Tiles. 'Milani' tapware and 'Vino' showerhead, both ABI Interiors. **WALK-IN ROBE** Joinery in Laminex oak veneer. Ottomans, Sirkka. Carpet, Godfrey Hirst. **MAIN BEDROOM** ***Opposite, top and bottom right*** 'Leo' bedside tables, Grazia & Co. 'Modern Art' table lamp and Møller '63' bench, both Great Dane. Sheepskin rug, NSW Leather Co. Custom bedhead and valance in Warwick Fabrics 'Husk Atoll'. 'Huggy' armchair, Ellison Studios. Gubi 'Grasshopper' floor lamp, Cult. **POWDER ROOM** Milani tapware, ABI Interiors. Benchtop in YDL Cloudy Grey, YDL Stone. Finger tiles, in Opal Light Grey, Johnson Tiles.

THIS IS THE LIFE

As Kristen works from home, she is ensconced in her study three or four days a week. But in her leisure hours, the kitchen with its massive bench is a generous gathering point for friends and family. The free-flowing house is so open that it can cater for quite a crowd – nearly 50 people attended a recent celebration and no-one was cramped. “We wanted to downsize, but not too much,” she says.



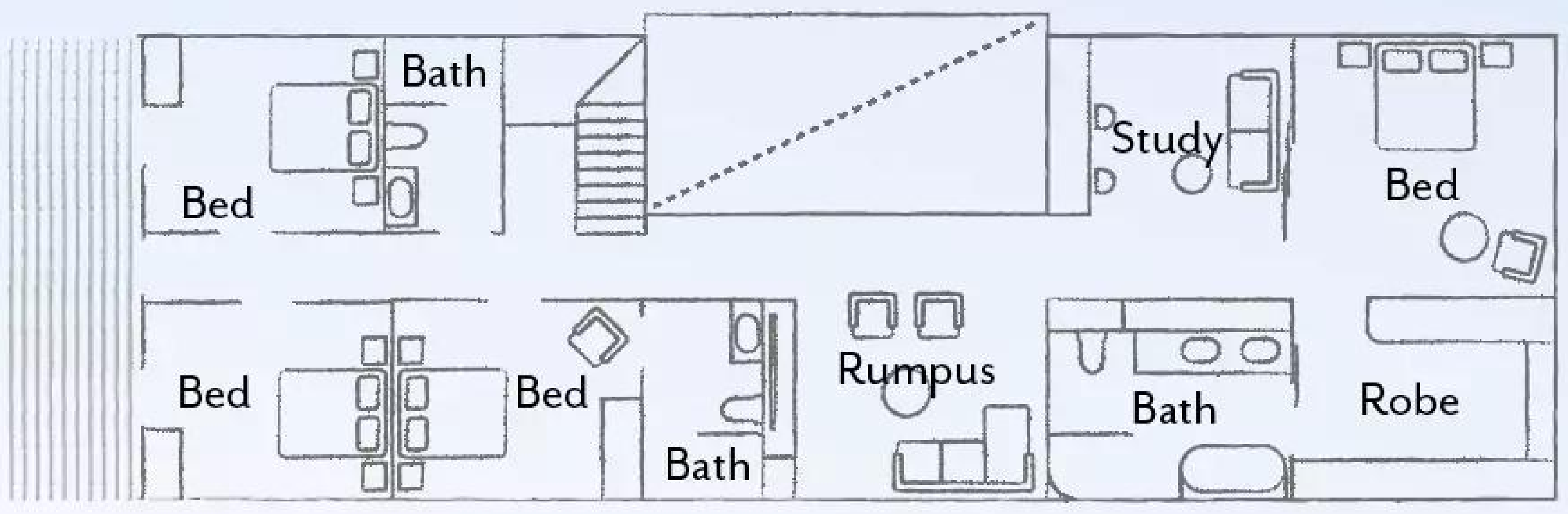


> “The palette of warm neutrals, rusts and blues complements the architecture.”

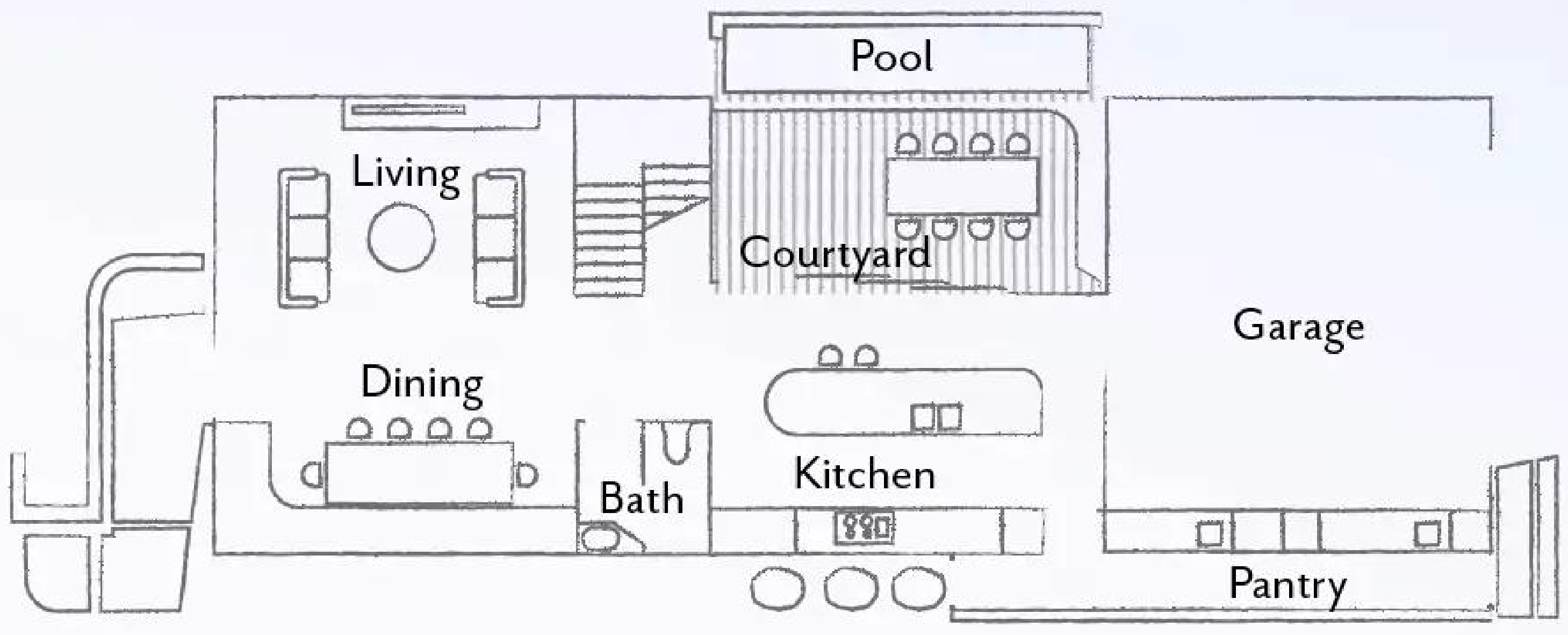
GABRIELLE REINHARDT, DECORATOR

COURTYARD Walls in James Hardie ‘HardieFlex’ cladding painted Dulux Manorburn. Timber fence painted Dulux Lexicon® Quarter. Hay ‘Palissade’ table and chairs in Olive, Cult. Water jug, Freedom. littala jug and tumblers, David Jones. Gloss Sage pool tiles, ASA Tiles. Floor in white-pigmented off-form concrete in CCS Snow.

THE LAYOUT


Bath
Study
Bed
Bed
Bed
Bed
Rumpus
Bath
Robe
Bath

First floor


Pool
Living
Courtyard
Garage
Dining
Bath
Kitchen
Pantry

Ground floor

The sofa was selected for its relaxed style, while its square lines contrast with the curved armchair." Double fringing, a Gabrielle trademark, lends a playful touch to a Gubi lamp beside the prized armchair.

Meanwhile, she kept the dining space "contemporary and simple" with classic black bentwood chairs and an oak dining table to seat 10, while a custom seat cushion follows the sinuous curve of the built-in concrete banquette. Those dining chairs and the outdoor setting in bottle green were points of contention, but now Kristen is an avid fan of both.

"Gabrielle talked me into the green outdoor setting under the hanging gardens. I thought it would be too much, but I find it immersive now and such a nice place to be," she says. "I also thought this house would be too modern for Thonet dining chairs, but they marry the modern and the classic so beautifully." Which could really sum up the entire house.

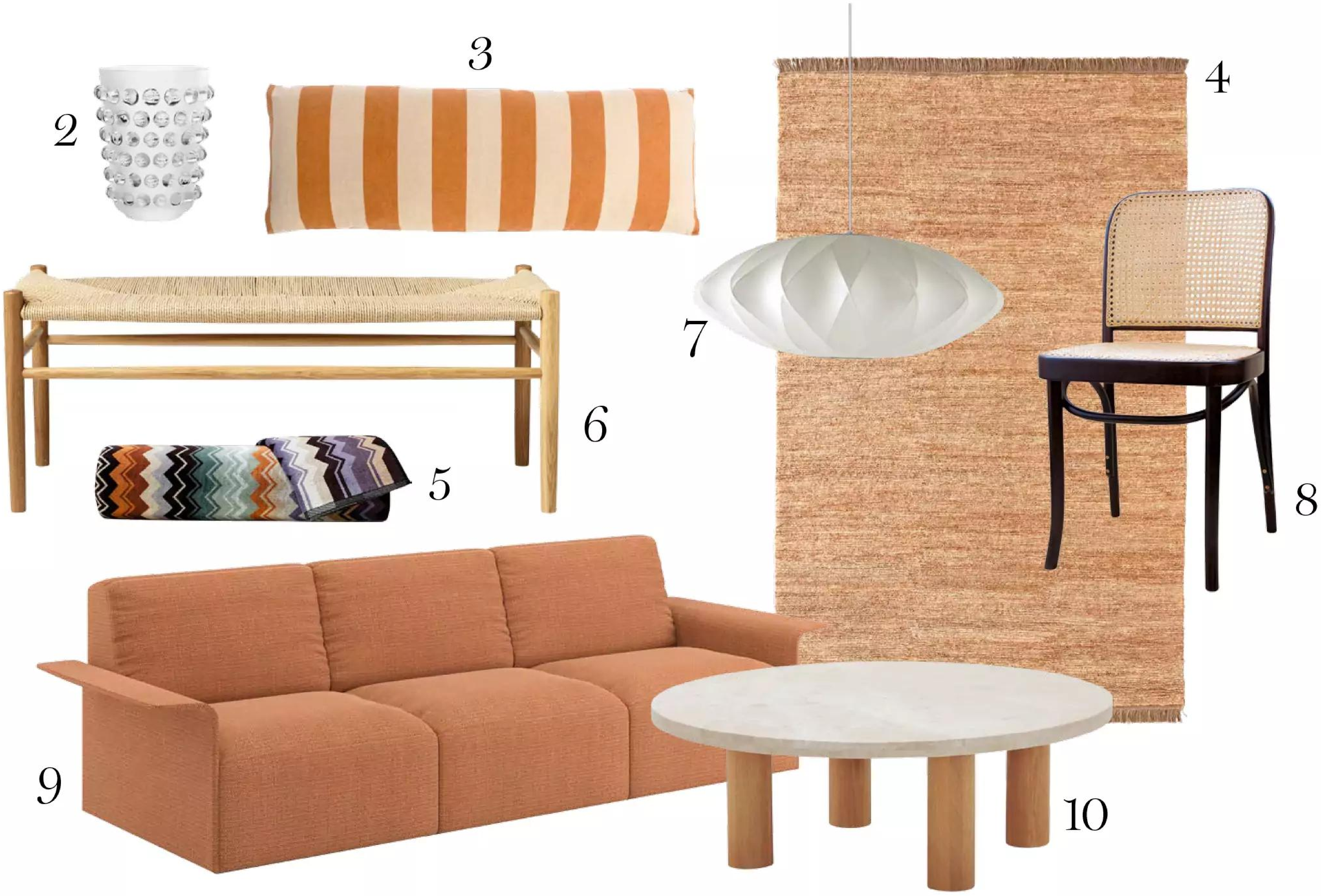
▶

Refresh Studio For Architecture: *refreshdesign.com.au*.
Gabrielle Reinhardt Interiors: *berkeleyinteriors.com.au*.

FRONT VERANDAH Balustrade, timber battens and James Hardie 'HardieFlex' cladding all painted Dulux Manorburn. Hay 'Palissade' stools and table, Cult. 'Kubu Scoot' olive tree basket, Provincial Home Living.

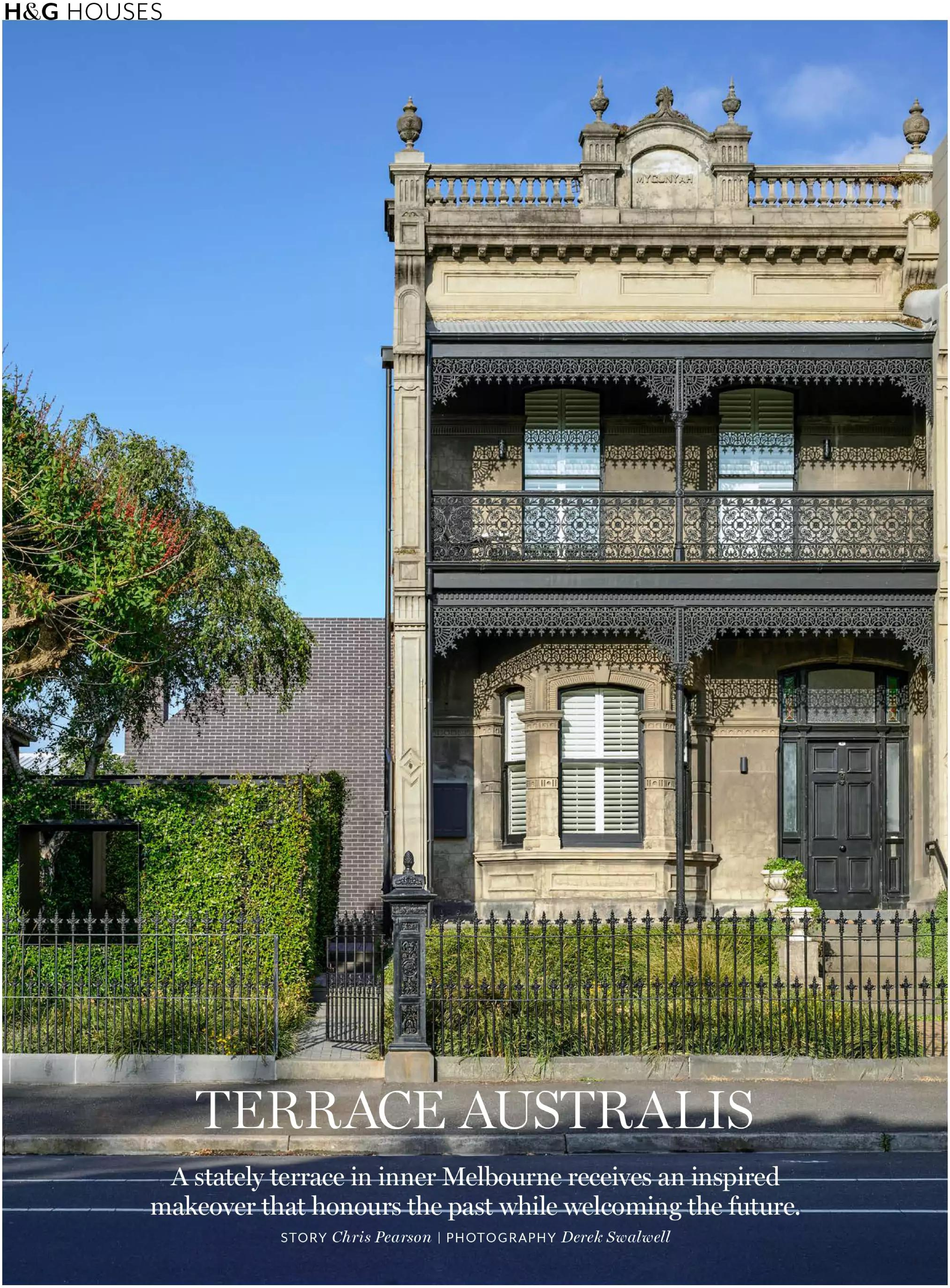
THE SOURCE

A neutral palette peppered with warm rusts and timber tones sets the scene for cosy relaxation.



1 'Linz' **buffet** in Natural, $1099, Domayne. 2 Lalique 'Mossi' **vase** in Clear, POA, Palmer & Penn. 3 'Palmer' **cushion** in Canteloupe, $285, Jardan. 4 'Mojave' **rug** in Natural (240x170cm), $2000, Armadillo. 5 Missoni 'Giacomo' **bath towel**, $140, Winnings. 6 'J83B' **bench** in Lacquered Oak, $1355, Finnish Design Shop. 7 'Nelson' **pendant light**, $985, Living Edge. 8 'No.811 Hoffman' **chair** in Dark Oak, POA, Thonet. 9 Viccarbe 'Sistema Floor' **sofa**, POA, Space. 10 'Chub' **coffee table** in Cosmos marble, $1499, Ellison Studios. **H&G**

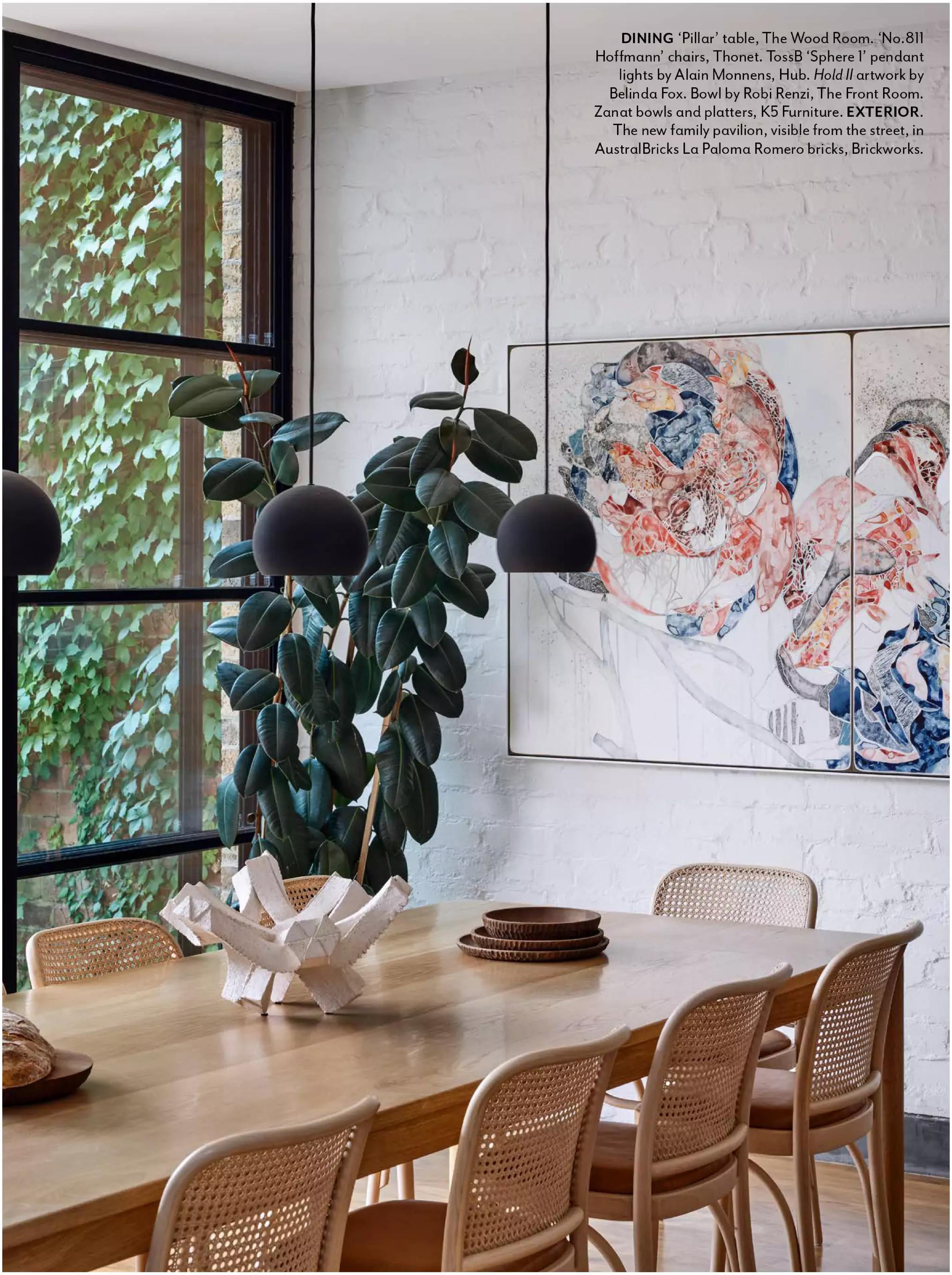
Produced by Andrea Healy.



TERRACE AUSTRALIS

A stately terrace in inner Melbourne receives an inspired makeover that honours the past while welcoming the future.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Derek Swalwell*



DINING 'Pillar' table, The Wood Room. 'No.811 Hoffmann' chairs, Thonet. TossB 'Sphere 1' pendant lights by Alain Monnens, Hub. *Hold II* artwork by Belinda Fox. Bowl by Robi Renzi, The Front Room. Zanat bowls and platters, K5 Furniture. **EXTERIOR**. The new family pavilion, visible from the street, in AustralBricks La Paloma Romero bricks, Brickworks.

Three's company for the owners of this handsome home in Melbourne's inner northeast. Three generations live under its crafted brick roof and it comprises as many pavilions, which boldly straddle three centuries. Yet this beguiling blend of the young and not-so-young melds into a harmonious whole. Its architect, Matt Gibson of Matt Gibson Architecture + Design, has evocatively titled it Mygunyah (the indigenous word for 'my hut') by the Circus, the latter an English word for 'crescent'.

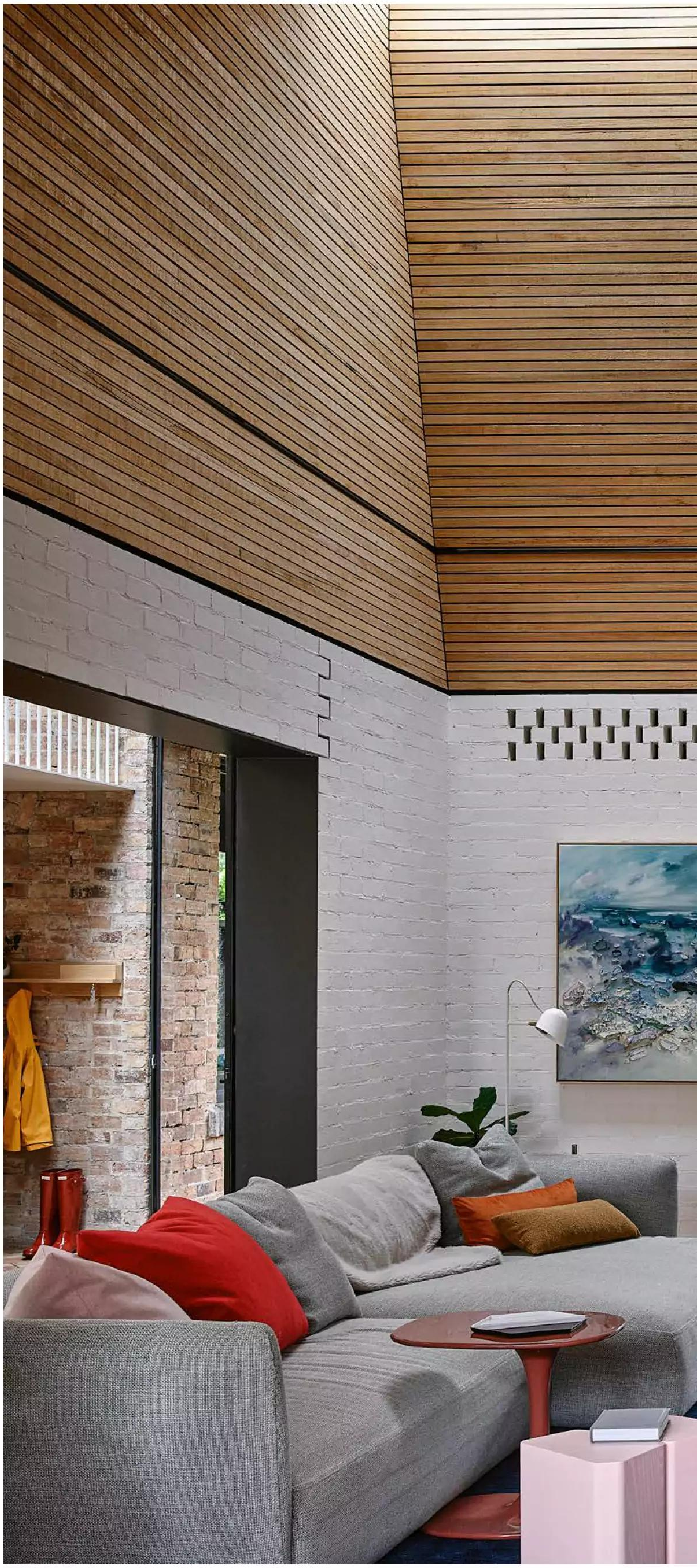
When he first visited back in 2017, he was greeted by a majestic Victorian terrace, testament to the state's 19th-century gold rush. Its Italianate mouldings, parapets and filigree balconies, and generous, if lately neglected, rose garden to one side were the legacy of an affluent first owner, who boldly capped it off with 'Mygunyah' etched at the top.

The current owners bought it in 2015. "We loved the large block, so rare in inner Melbourne. With the birth of twins, we suddenly found ourselves as an immediate family of six and needed more space as well as a garden for the kids to play in," says the owner. "The original features, the grand facade and the location opposite gardens were bonuses." But less of a bonus was a 1980s renovation, with its tacked-on dining area and kitchen. "The house was small and dark, with one poky bathroom upstairs. The walls were apricot and the carpet brown, plus everything was worn and falling apart."

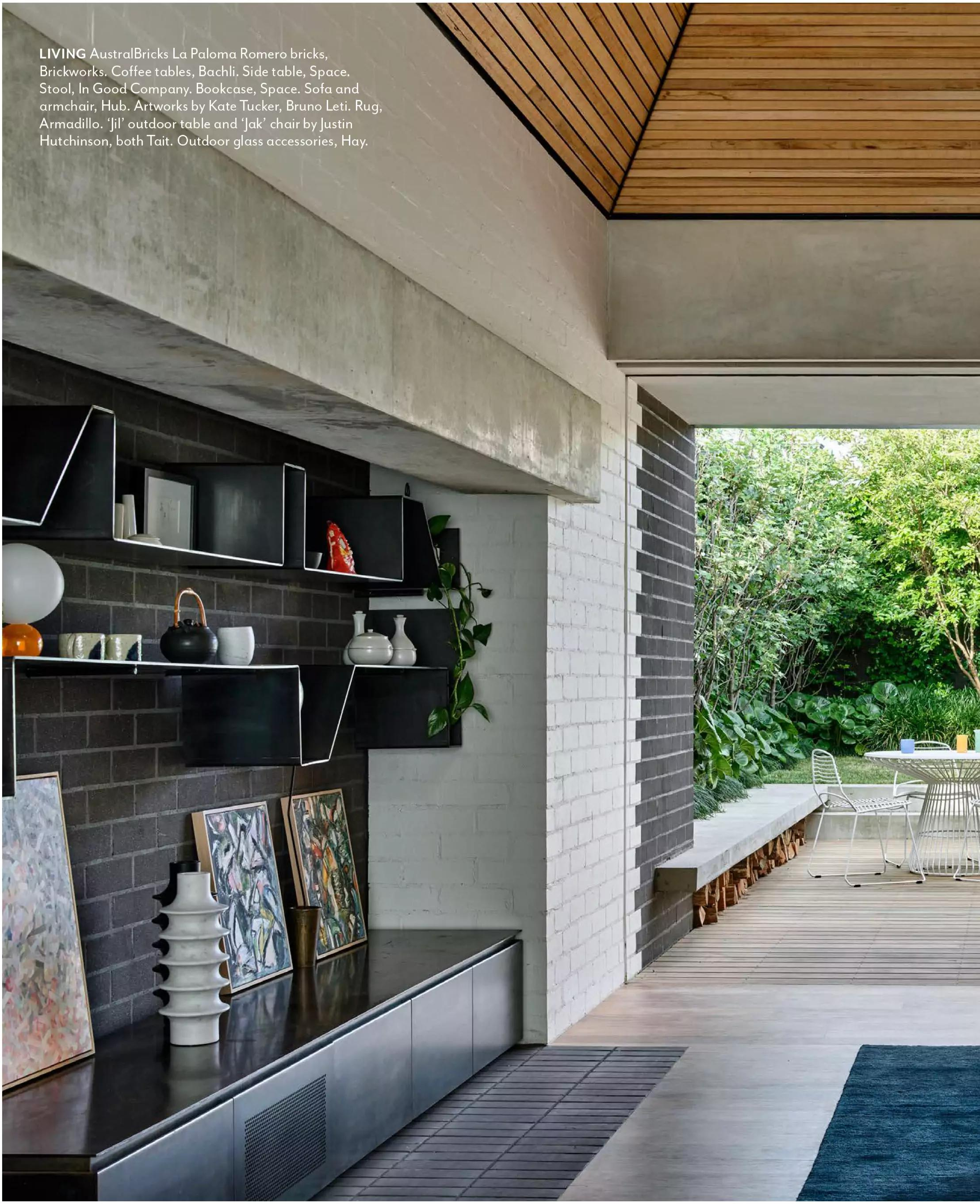
Matt was the obvious person to address those issues. "We liked his considered approach to renovating Victorian terraces and how he manages to get light into them," she says. "With natural materials like timber and brick, his homes always have warmth."

The couple asked Matt to remodel it with separate spaces for multi-generational living, while respecting its more formal past and letting its hair down for informal family time. "The owners wanted light, a better integration with the garden and a home that could cater for their family for years to come," he says, adding ▸

LIVING Fireplace wall in AustralBricks La Paloma Romero bricks, Brickworks. MDF Italia 'Cosy' sofa and armchair, Hub. 'Flow' table, Bachli. 'Meguro' stool, In Good Company. 'Awa' outdoor side table, Space. Floor lamp, Fred International. 'Mini Coupe' table lamp, Euroluce. Artworks by Colin Pennock, Peter D Cole, Louis Grant and Kate Tucker. 'Agra' rug, Armadillo.



> "We all love the large family room under the tall, timber-lined ceiling, which creates a real wow factor."
>
> THE OWNER



LIVING AustralBricks La Paloma Romero bricks, Brickworks. Coffee tables, Bachli. Side table, Space. Stool, In Good Company. Bookcase, Space. Sofa and armchair, Hub. Artworks by Kate Tucker, Bruno Leti. Rug, Armadillo. 'Jil' outdoor table and 'Jak' chair by Justin Hutchinson, both Tait. Outdoor glass accessories, Hay.

SENSATION OF TIME
MELBOURNE
LONDON THEATRE
POSSIBLY MAYBE

KITCHEN Track lighting, Gineico. Joinery in Messmate V-groove cladding in Dulux Natural White™, Eco Timber. Benchtop in Carrara marble and island top in Amalfi Grey marble, both G-Lux. Island joinery in Briggs Veneers Blackbutt veneer. AEG oven and cooktop and Zip HydroTap B, all Winnings. Brodware kitchen mixer, E&S Trading. *Wrench*, 2015, artwork by Monica Rohan. **DINING** TossB 'Sphere 1' pendant lights, Hub. 'Pillar' dining table, The Wood Room. Dining chairs, Thonet. Gubi 'Beetle' bar stool, Cult.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

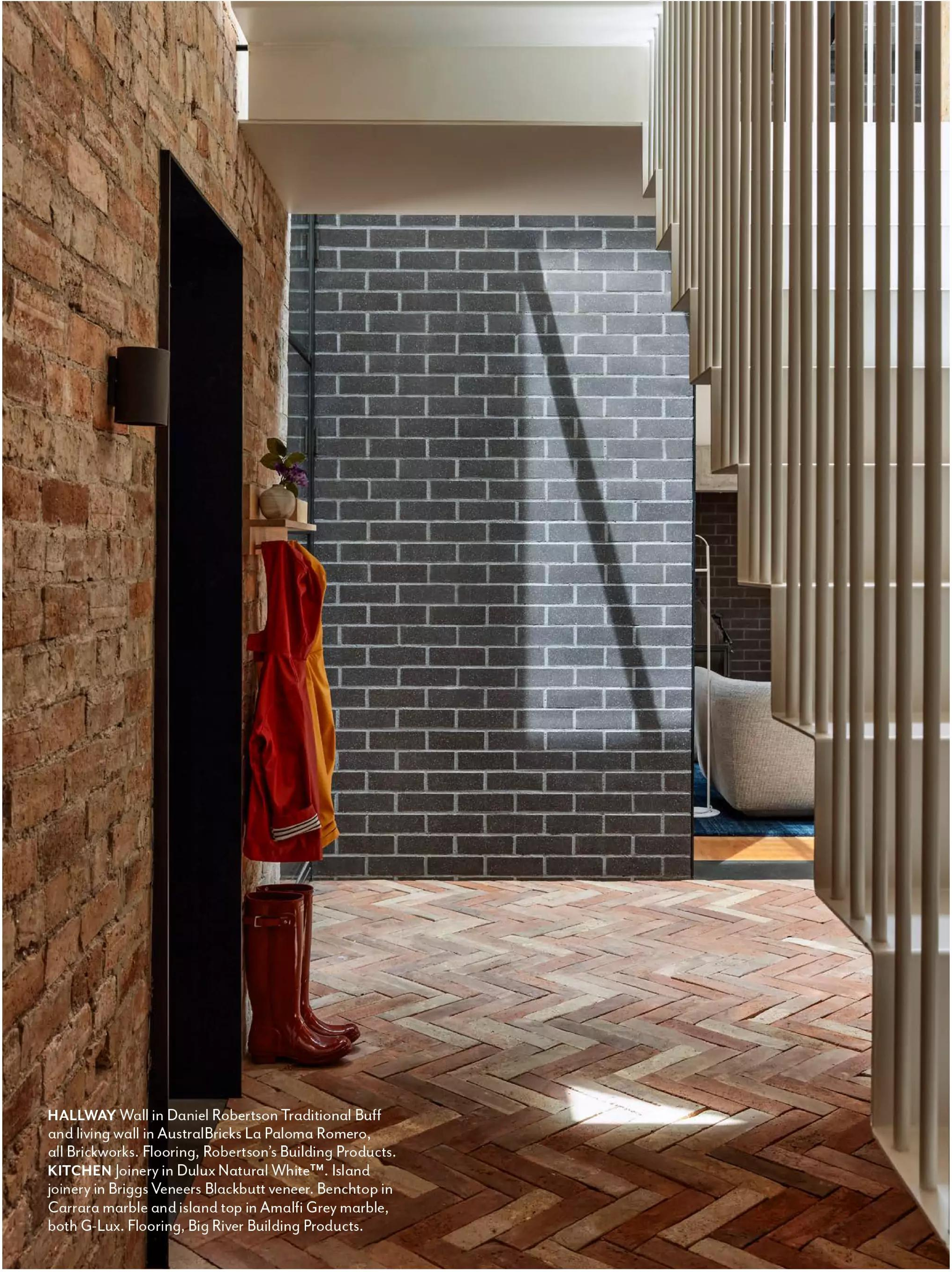
THE PALETTE

Dulux Natural White™
(ceilings, walls, cornices)

Dulux Domino
(doors and door frames)

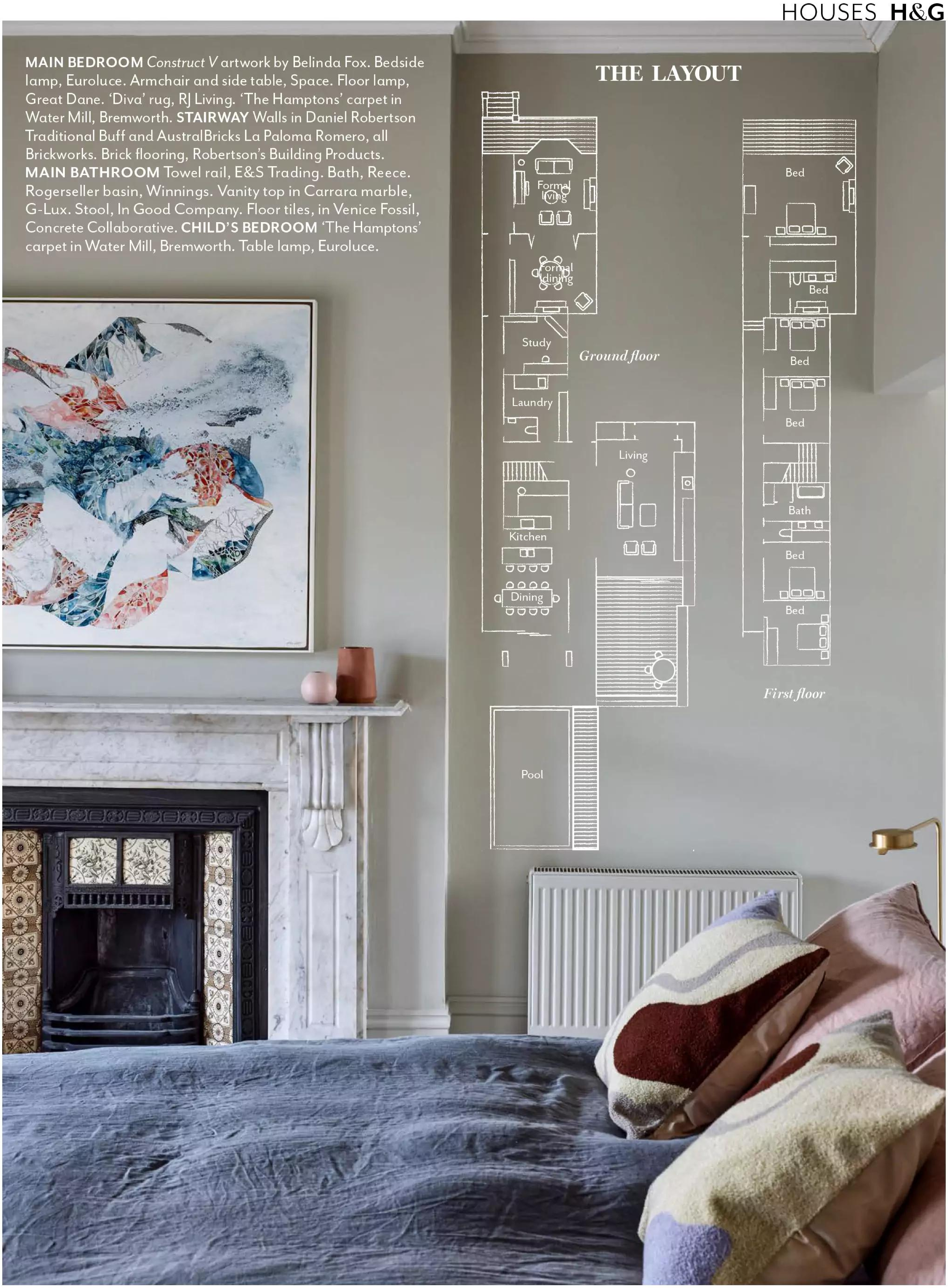
Daniel Robertson Traditional Buff,
Brickworks (hallway wall)

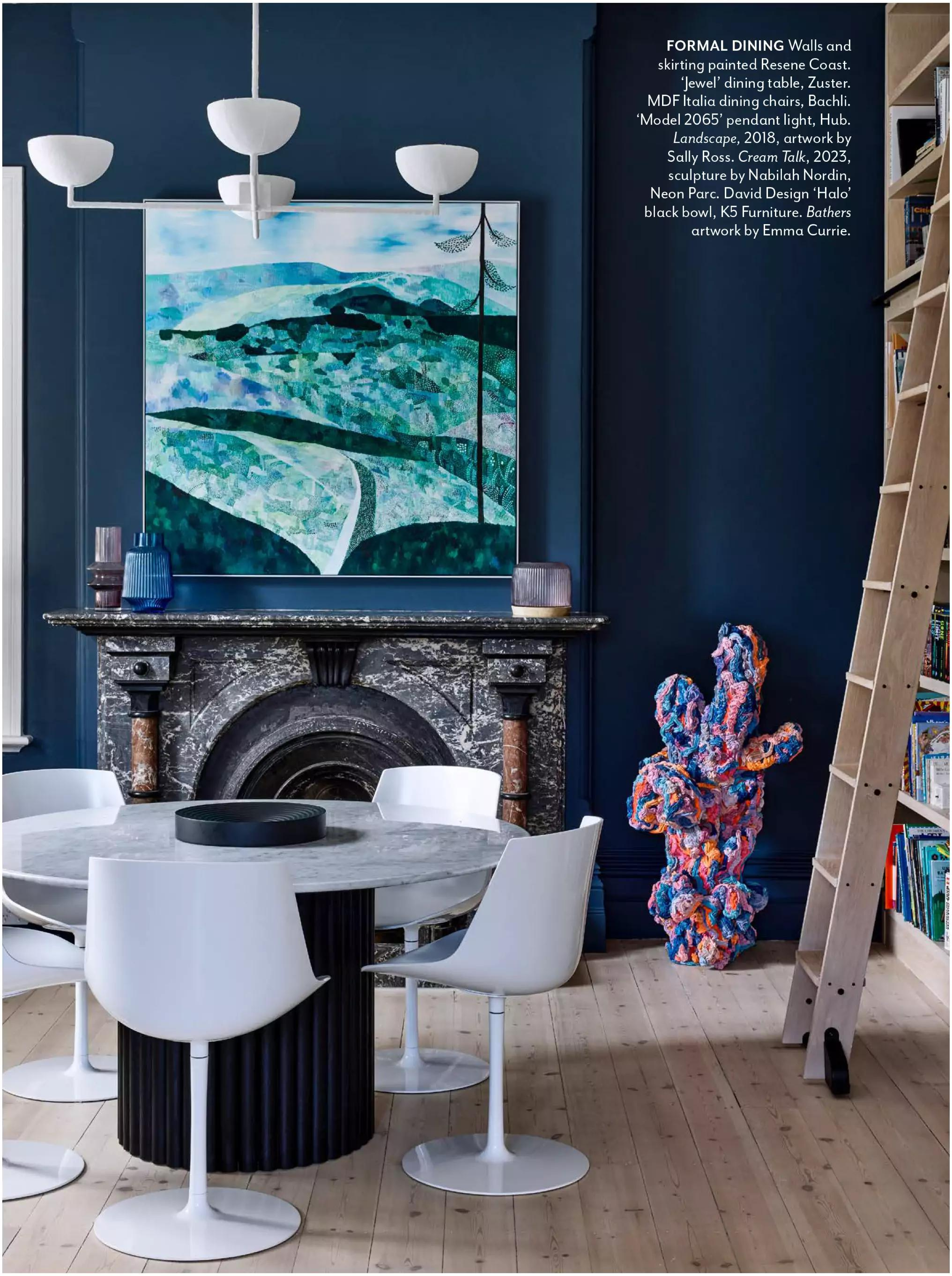
> “The home is full of character and personality while also crisp, clean and streamlined.”
>
> MATT GIBSON, ARCHITECT



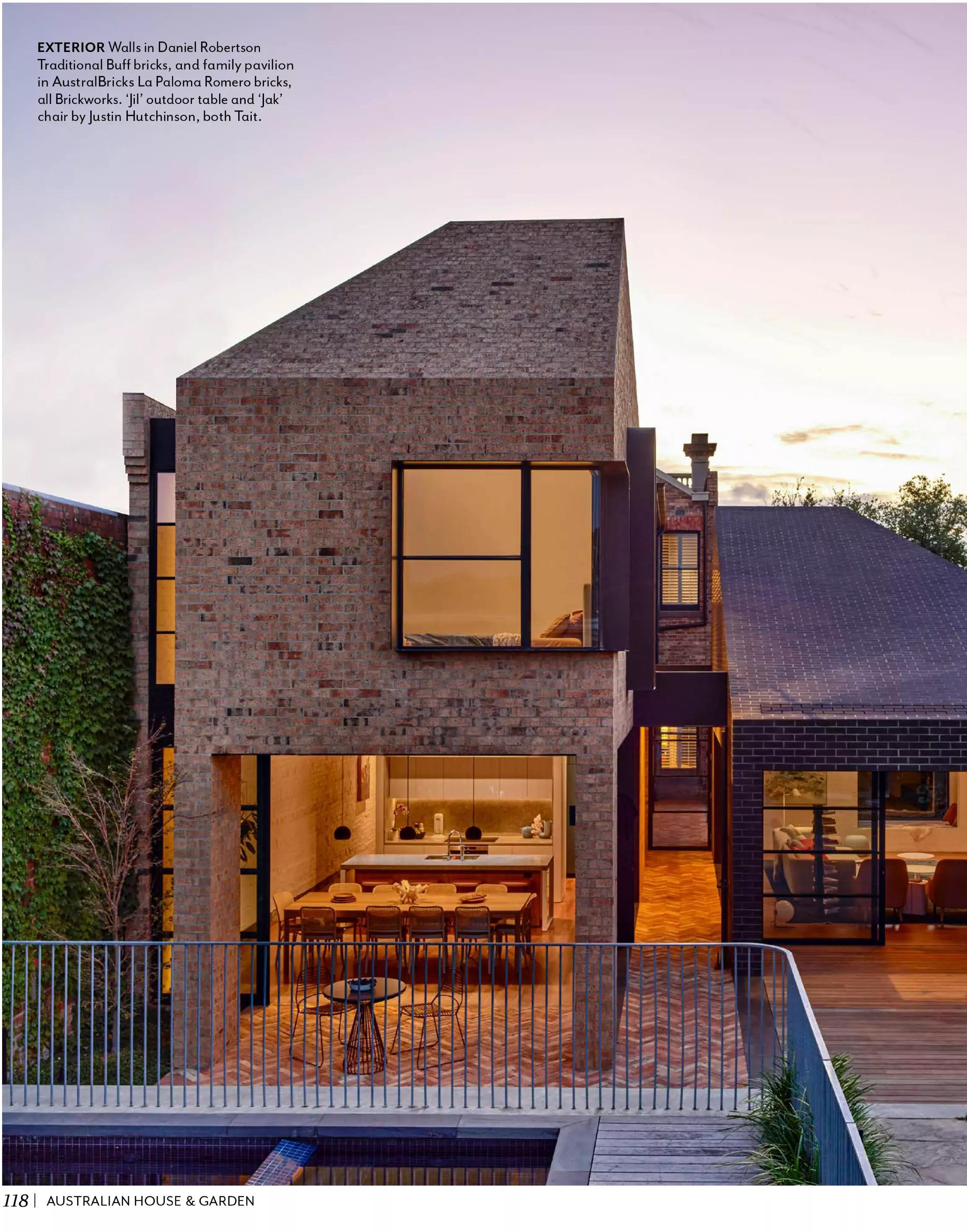
HALLWAY Wall in Daniel Robertson Traditional Buff and living wall in AustralBricks La Paloma Romero, all Brickworks. Flooring, Robertson's Building Products. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Dulux Natural White™. Island joinery in Briggs Veneers Blackbutt veneer. Benchtop in Carrara marble and island top in Amalfi Grey marble, both G-Lux. Flooring, Big River Building Products.

MAIN BEDROOM *Construct V* artwork by Belinda Fox. Bedside lamp, Euroluce. Armchair and side table, Space. Floor lamp, Great Dane. 'Diva' rug, RJ Living. 'The Hamptons' carpet in Water Mill, Bremworth. **STAIRWAY** Walls in Daniel Robertson Traditional Buff and AustralBricks La Paloma Romero, all Brickworks. Brick flooring, Robertson's Building Products. **MAIN BATHROOM** Towel rail, E&S Trading. Bath, Reece. Rogerseller basin, Winnings. Vanity top in Carrara marble, G-Lux. Stool, In Good Company. Floor tiles, in Venice Fossil, Concrete Collaborative. **CHILD'S BEDROOM** 'The Hamptons' carpet in Water Mill, Bremworth. Table lamp, Euroluce.


THE LAYOUT
Formal living
Formal dining
Study
Laundry
Kitchen
Dining
Living
Pool
Ground floor
Bed
Bed
Bed
Bed
Bath
Bed
Bed
First floor



FORMAL DINING Walls and skirting painted Resene Coast. 'Jewel' dining table, Zuster. MDF Italia dining chairs, Bachli. 'Model 2065' pendant light, Hub. *Landscape*, 2018, artwork by Sally Ross. *Cream Talk*, 2023, sculpture by Nabilah Nordin, Neon Parc. David Design 'Halo' black bowl, K5 Furniture. *Bathers* artwork by Emma Currie.



EXTERIOR Walls in Daniel Robertson Traditional Buff bricks, and family pavilion in AustralBricks La Paloma Romero bricks, all Brickworks. 'Jil' outdoor table and 'Jak' chair by Justin Hutchinson, both Tait.

THIS IS THE LIFE

This is a family home for all seasons. "As a family we spend most of time in the rear dining and family rooms. When we entertain, everyone squeezes around the large dining table and we can slide back the doors to connect with the deck," says the owner. "Everyone loves lounging on the large sofa for family movie nights and board games, and we love to gather around the fireplace in winter."

that it also had to pay homage to its past. And, in its palette and materiality, it needed to complement an extensive art collection.

Matt shaved off the awkward addition and replaced it with two new pavilions, a kitchen and dining at the rear and a large living room for an extended family off to the side. The first section, the original terrace, contains formal living spaces on the ground floor and three bedrooms on the upper floor, including a spacious main suite. The second pavilion, a contemporary rear extension, comprises the kitchen and dining on the lower level, with two more bedrooms on the upper floor. The north-facing third pavilion, meanwhile, to the left of the original footprint, consists of a family living area fronting a lush garden by landscape architect Robyn Barlow. It boasts a striking pyramid-shaped light shaft, clad in timber and a deep reveal with a window seat, which intriguingly channels the eye through serial peepholes in parallel hedges to parkland beyond.

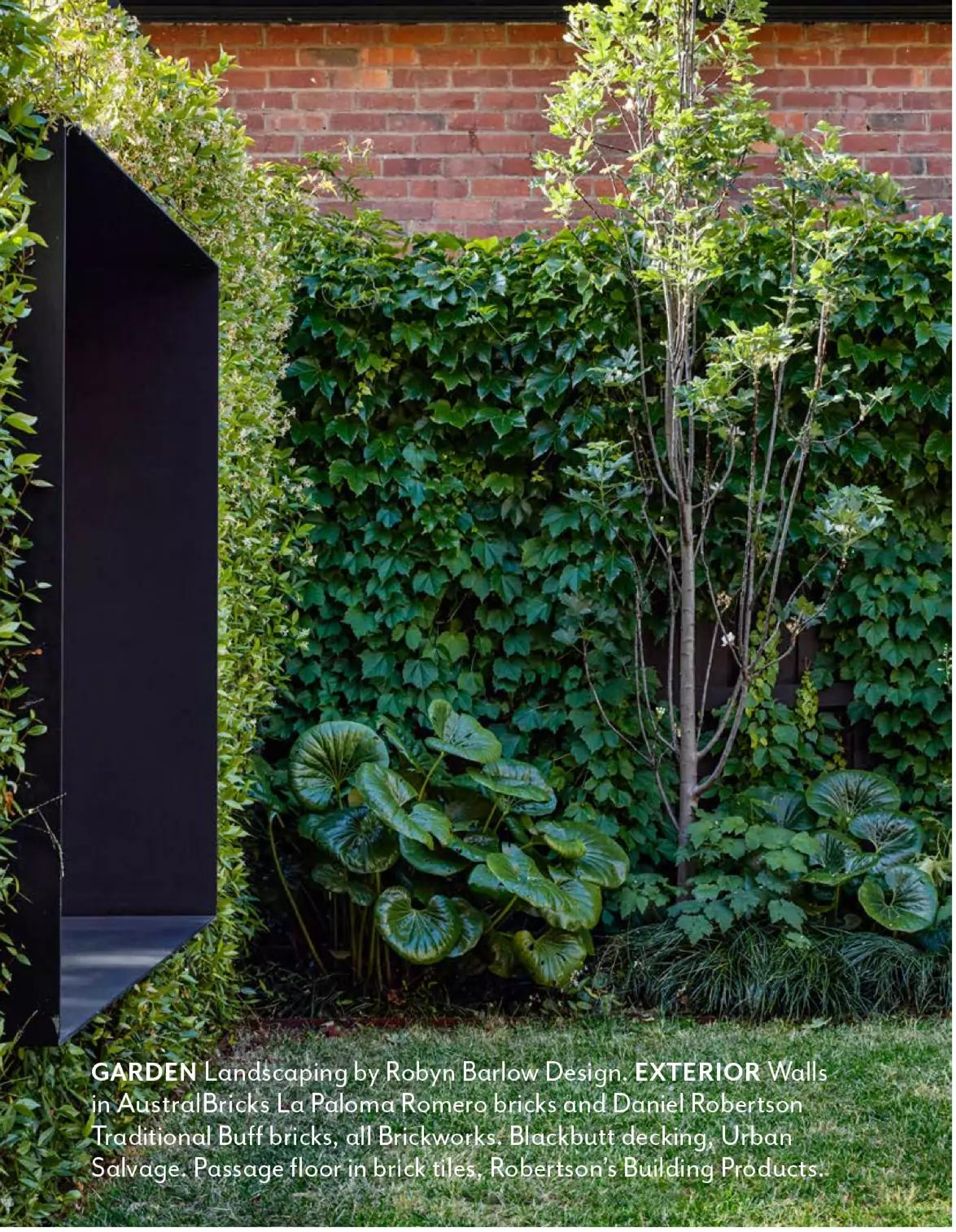
The new pavilions draw on the Arts and Crafts tradition, says Matt, with steep roofs, asymmetry, exaggerated chimneys and crafted finishes all providing "sculptural idiosyncrasy and informality". Brick, in all its textural richness and colour, is applied in a "bold and monolithic" manner. The recycled timber lath ceiling, internal brick walls and salvaged terracotta brick floor tiles all recall historical materials and patterns, conveying a relaxed, yet crafted, interior.

The brick flooring, laid in a herringbone pattern, creates warmth and durability in high-traffic areas and connects inside and out. And the material lends serious design cred when used in such innovative ways.

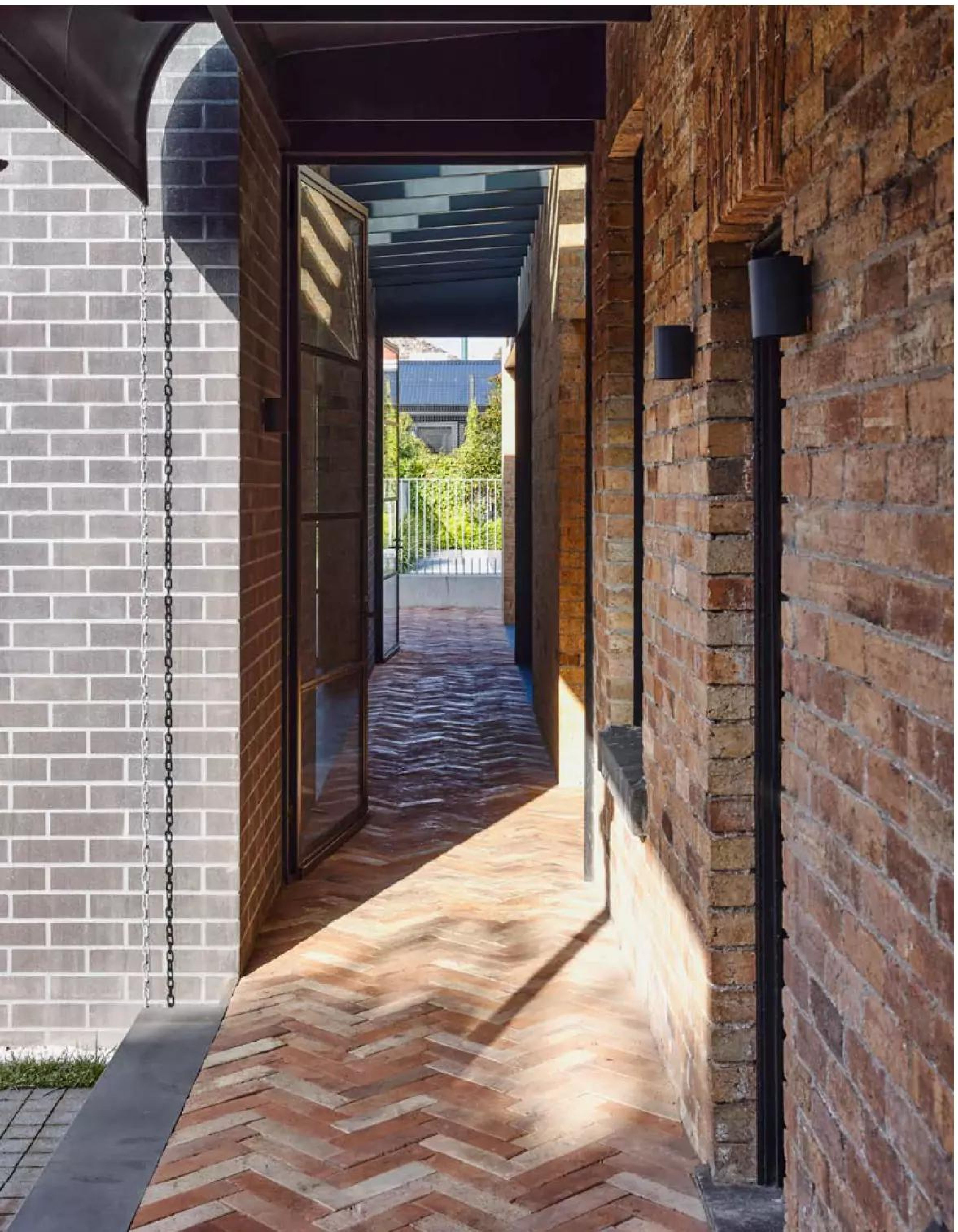
Furniture is a mix of the classic and the contemporary, with hints of retro, all strands woven throughout the house to create continuity, with the couple's art collection providing much of the tonal inspiration, especially in rich hues of the original section. "We all love the large family room under the tall, timber-lined ceiling, which creates a real wow factor," says the owner. "The skylights bring so much light and the box window seat with its view through the hedges is really clever."

"I love the feeling of being somewhere that feels contemporary and historical at the same time. The home is full of character and personality while also crisp, clean and streamlined," says Matt. ▶

***Matt Gibson Architecture + Design:** mattgibson.com.au.*
***Robyn Barlow Design:** @robynbarlowdesign.*

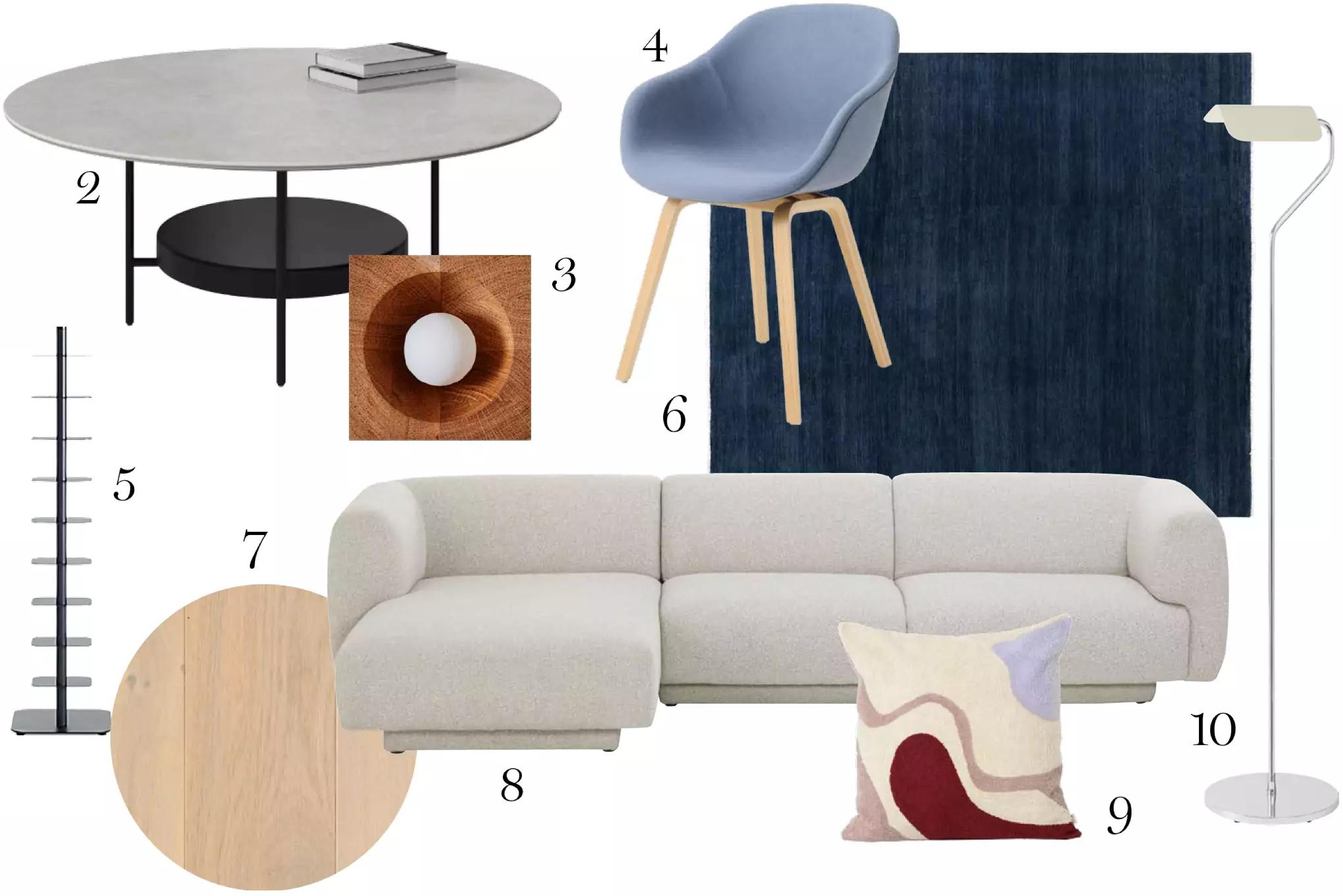


GARDEN Landscaping by Robyn Barlow Design. **EXTERIOR** Walls in AustralBricks La Paloma Romero bricks and Daniel Robertson Traditional Buff bricks, all Brickworks. Blackbutt decking, Urban Salvage. Passage floor in brick tiles, Robertson's Building Products.



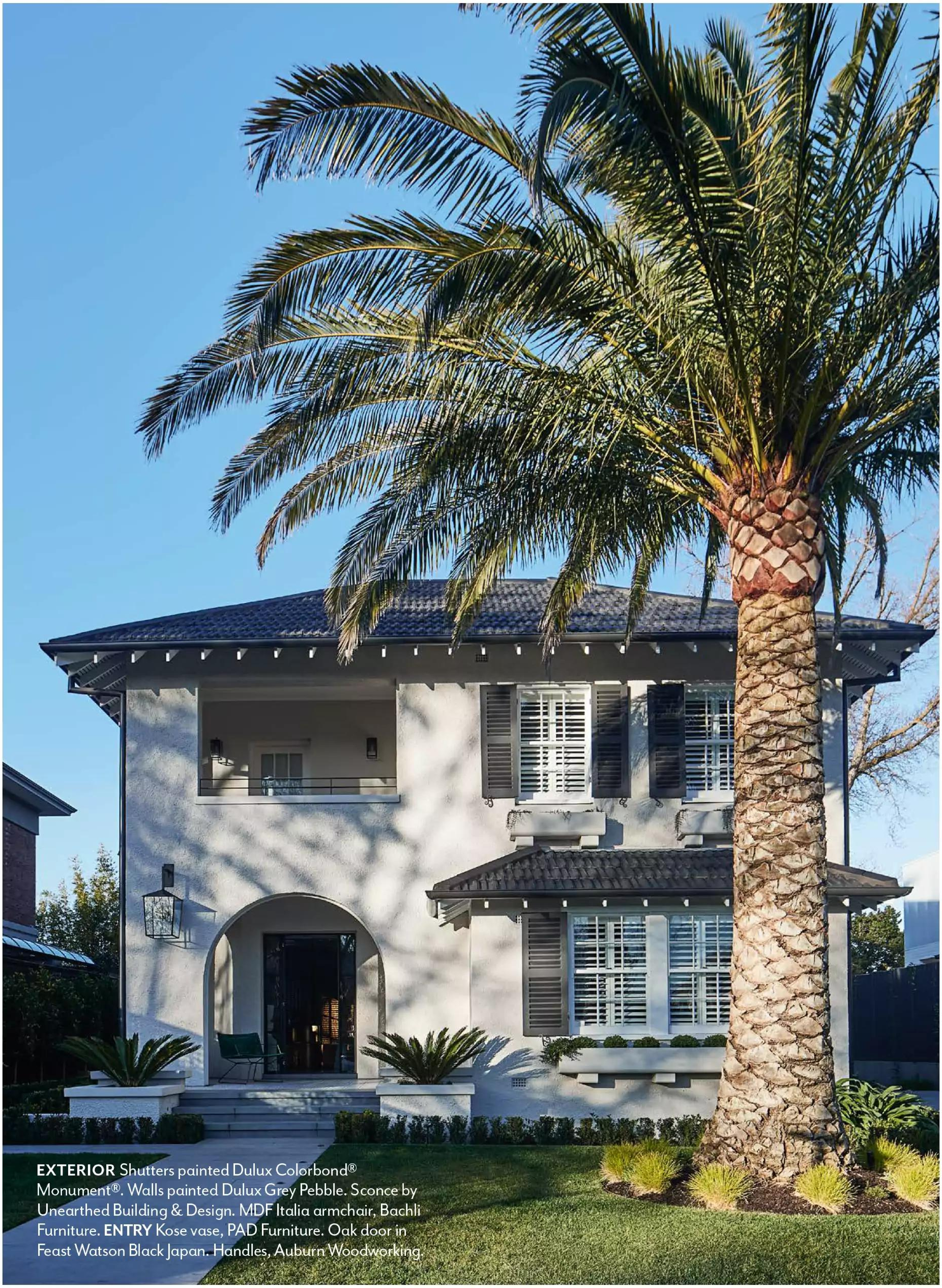
THE SOURCE

Shades of blue and grey pair beautifully with touches of warm timber to create an elegant yet inviting space.



Produced by Andrea Healy.

1 Audo Copenhagen **bottle grinders** in Blues with Beech lids, $175/2, Mobel Design. 2 'Madrid' **coffee table**, $2599, BoConcept. 3 'Well' **sconce** in Natural Oak, $2060, In Good Company. 4 'About a Chair AAC22' **chair** in Dusty Blue, $581, Hay. 5 'Story' **bookcase** in Coal, $905, Living Edge. 6 'Agra' **rug** in Midnight (300x240cm), $5000, Armadillo. 7 Plantino engineered oak 'Regal' **flooring** in Arctic White, Choices Flooring. 8 'Arendal' three-seater **lounge with chaise**, $3699, Domayne. 9 Ferm Living 'Vista' **cushion**, $189, Trit House. 10 Hay 'Apex' **floor lamp**, $525, Cult. **H&G**



EXTERIOR Shutters painted Dulux Colorbond® Monument®. Walls painted Dulux Grey Pebble. Sconce by Unearthed Building & Design. MDF Italia armchair, Bachli Furniture. **ENTRY** Kose vase, PAD Furniture. Oak door in Feast Watson Black Japan. Handles, Auburn Woodworking.

PRACTICAL MAGIC

Sensible meets spellbinding within the walls of this Colonial Regency mansion in Melbourne.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Swee Lim* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Shannon McGrath*

Tucked into the leafy landscape of Melbourne's inner east, this Colonial Regency mansion features 170 slabs of imported Italian marble used across its floors, columns and bathrooms. "Nothing was spared," says Swee Lim, who curated the interiors with furniture and art. "It's so expansive you could roller-skate in there."

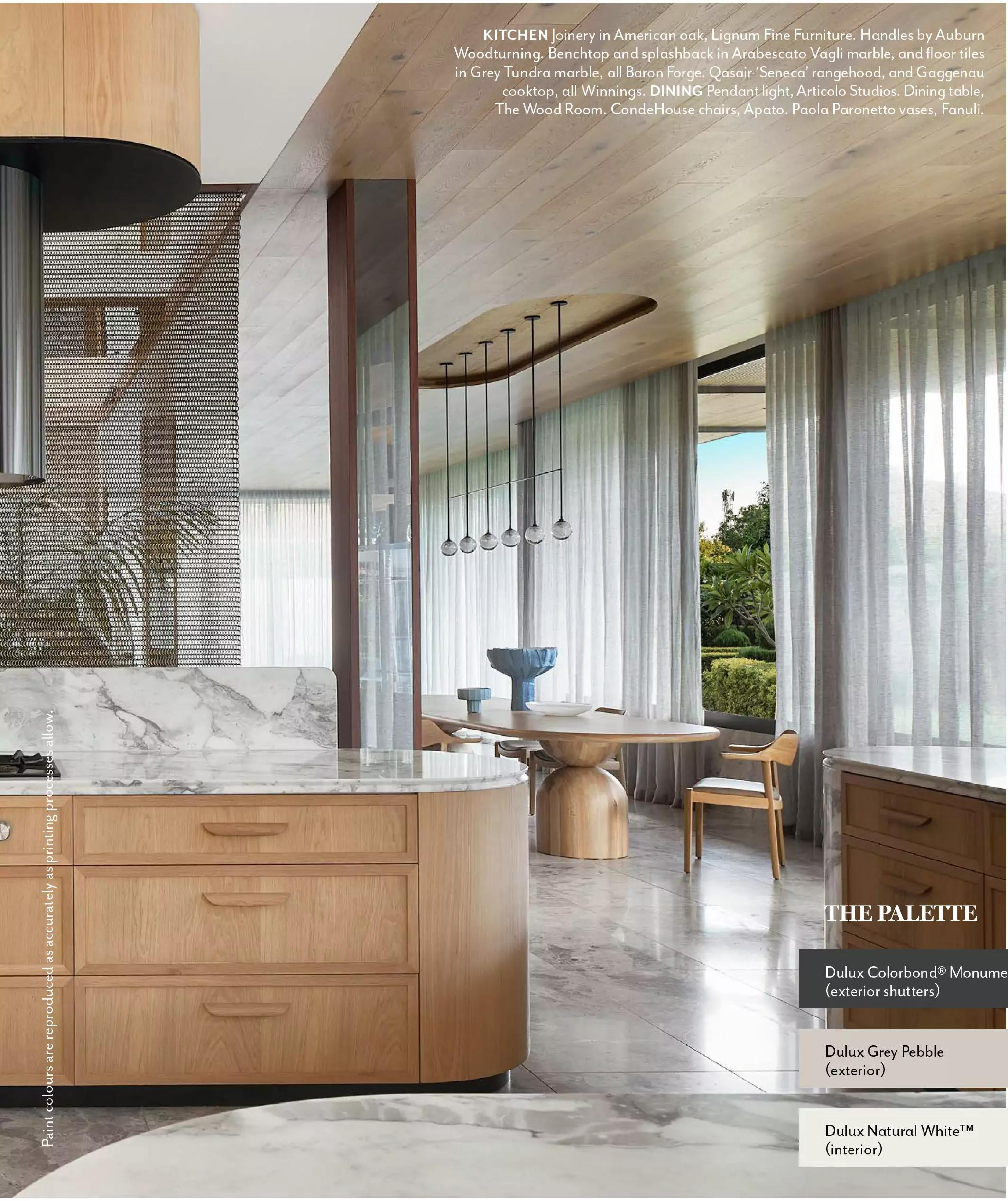
To complement the swathes of stone and amp up the warmth, builder and designer Jason Spear of Unearthed Building & Design contrasted the smooth surfaces with white oak veneer and custom fine timber details. "From the door handles to the staircase banister, absolutely everything is bespoke," says Swee, crediting Jason's fine eye to finishing and joinery.

Although the house's interiors are polished and refined, owners Narelle and Stuart also needed them to be robust and comfortable, especially as they have three active boys. "Our brief was for a home that blended elegance with functionality, something suitable for both family living and entertaining," says Narelle.

> “I looked at their wardrobe for tonal inspiration. I think what people wear is really indicative of what they like.”

SWEE LIM, DESIGNER

LIVING Wall in Diamond White Flamed granite. Screen in Kaynemaile architectural mesh in Bronze. Minotti ‘Torii’ armchairs, Dedece. Maison Dada side table and candleholder on coffee table, both Camerich. ‘Saint-Germain’ sofa, Poliform. Patterned cushion, Berny Bacic. Nayme side table, Bachli Furniture. Vase on plinth, Eun Ceramics. Classicon ‘Bow’ coffee tables, Anibou. ‘Orlando’ rug in Silver, Bayliss Rugs.



KITCHEN Joinery in American oak, Lignum Fine Furniture. Handles by Auburn Woodturning. Benchtop and splashback in Arabescato Vagli marble, and floor tiles in Grey Tundra marble, all Baron Forge. Qasair 'Seneca' rangehood, and Gaggenau cooktop, all Winnings. **DINING** Pendant light, Articolo Studios. Dining table, The Wood Room. CondeHouse chairs, Apato. Paola Paronetto vases, Fanuli.

THE PALETTE

Dulux Colorbond® Monument®
(exterior shutters)

Dulux Grey Pebble
(exterior)

Dulux Natural White™
(interior)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

DINING Curtains in Westbury Textiles 'Emporio' linen in Grigio, Hannans Window Furnishings. Pendant light, Articolo Studios. Table, The Wood Room. CondeHouse chairs, Apato. Paola Paronetto vases, Fanuli. **FORMAL LIVING** Jason Spear and Swee Lim. Moroso sofa, Mobilia. Coffee table, Jardan. Vessels, Eun Ceramics. Gervasoni armchair, and Classicon side table, both Anibou. Rug, Jenny Jones.

> “Sculptural elements exemplify this fluidity, creating a sense of movement and cohesion.” JASON SPEAR, BUILDER/DESIGNER

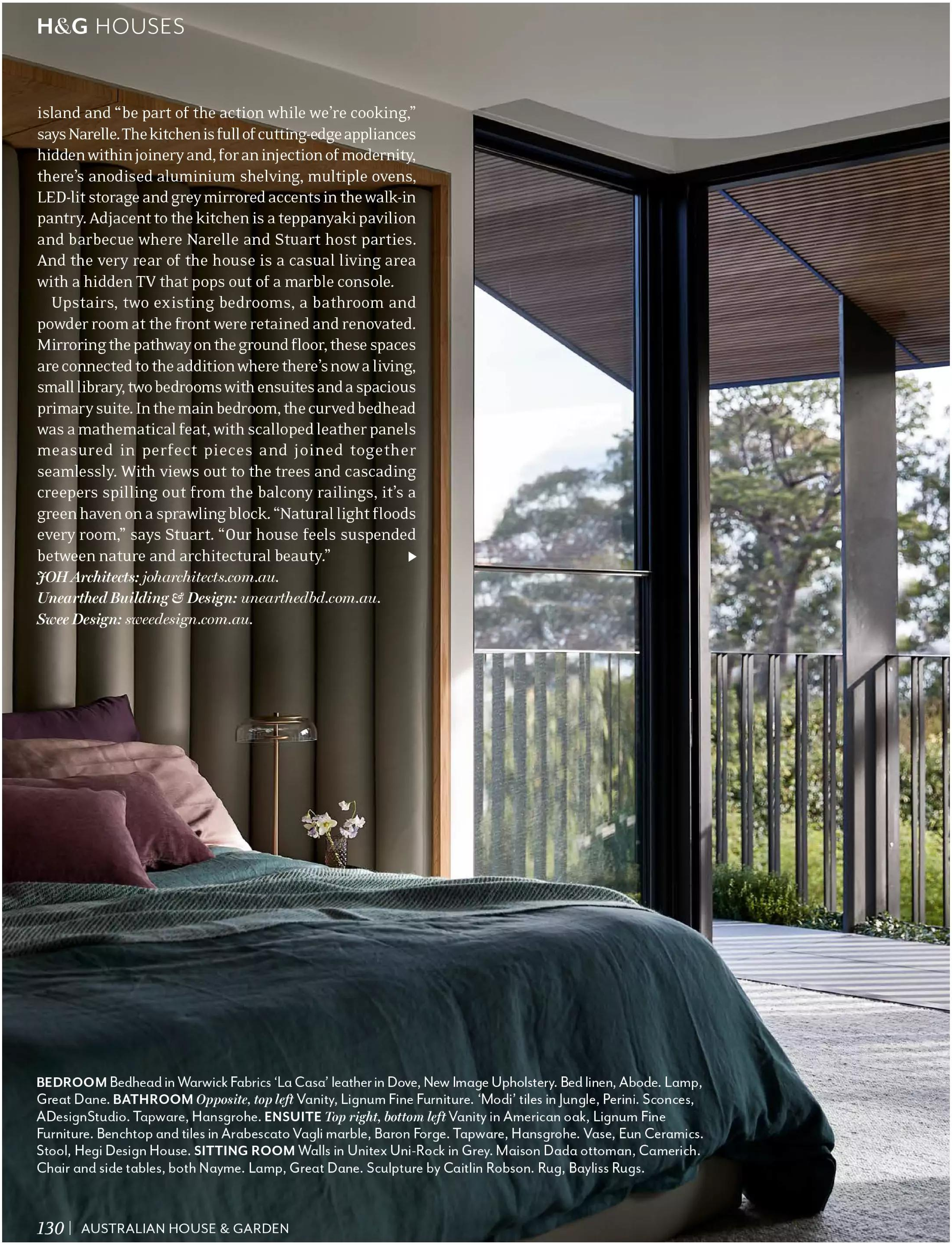
Once the neutral base materials were given the tick of approval, Swee worked on layering up the interiors using a mix of fabrics: soft natural linens, textured boucles, rich quilted velvets and luxurious leather accents. “I looked at their wardrobe for tonal inspiration,” she explains, of the teal-focused colour palette. “I think what people wear is really indicative of what they like and there was a lot of blues, greens and some patterning in their closets.”

While it’s invisible to the naked eye, the house has all the latest technology and just about everything is a gadget. “You press a button and everything will activate - the heating, the curtains, absolutely everything. It’s very complex but seamless because it’s hidden. It’s so high-tech and sophisticated that even the owner called me to get help turning on the TV,” says Swee.

The original heritage facade and two side walls were kept with some re-jigging internally to accommodate a study, powder room and two lounges - one with a double-height void and fireplace. Jason worked with architect Christian O’Halloran of JOH Architects to try and salvage as much as possible, but darkness and age had made it nearly impossible.

Rounded edges became the home’s signature motif early on, with curved silhouettes found everywhere from the winding staircase to the rangehood and vanities. Most significant is the snaking glass path linking the front of the house to the back, passing a large sculpture by Bruce Armstrong. “The sinuous corridors and the sculptural elements exemplify this fluidity, creating a sense of movement and cohesion,” says Jason. The vast amount of glazing in the extension meant that there was limited wall space for hanging art, so Swee decorated the house with a selection of sculptural works including pieces by Peter D. Cole and Melbourne designer Nayme.

Opening to the kitchen, there’s a wrap-around curved bench made from Arabescato Vagli marble and an adjacent four-metre oval dining table by The Wood Room. For Narelle and Stuart, the kitchen is the most important room, where both friends and family can sit at the ▶



island and "be part of the action while we're cooking," says Narelle. The kitchen is full of cutting-edge appliances hidden within joinery and, for an injection of modernity, there's anodised aluminium shelving, multiple ovens, LED-lit storage and grey mirrored accents in the walk-in pantry. Adjacent to the kitchen is a teppanyaki pavilion and barbecue where Narelle and Stuart host parties. And the very rear of the house is a casual living area with a hidden TV that pops out of a marble console.

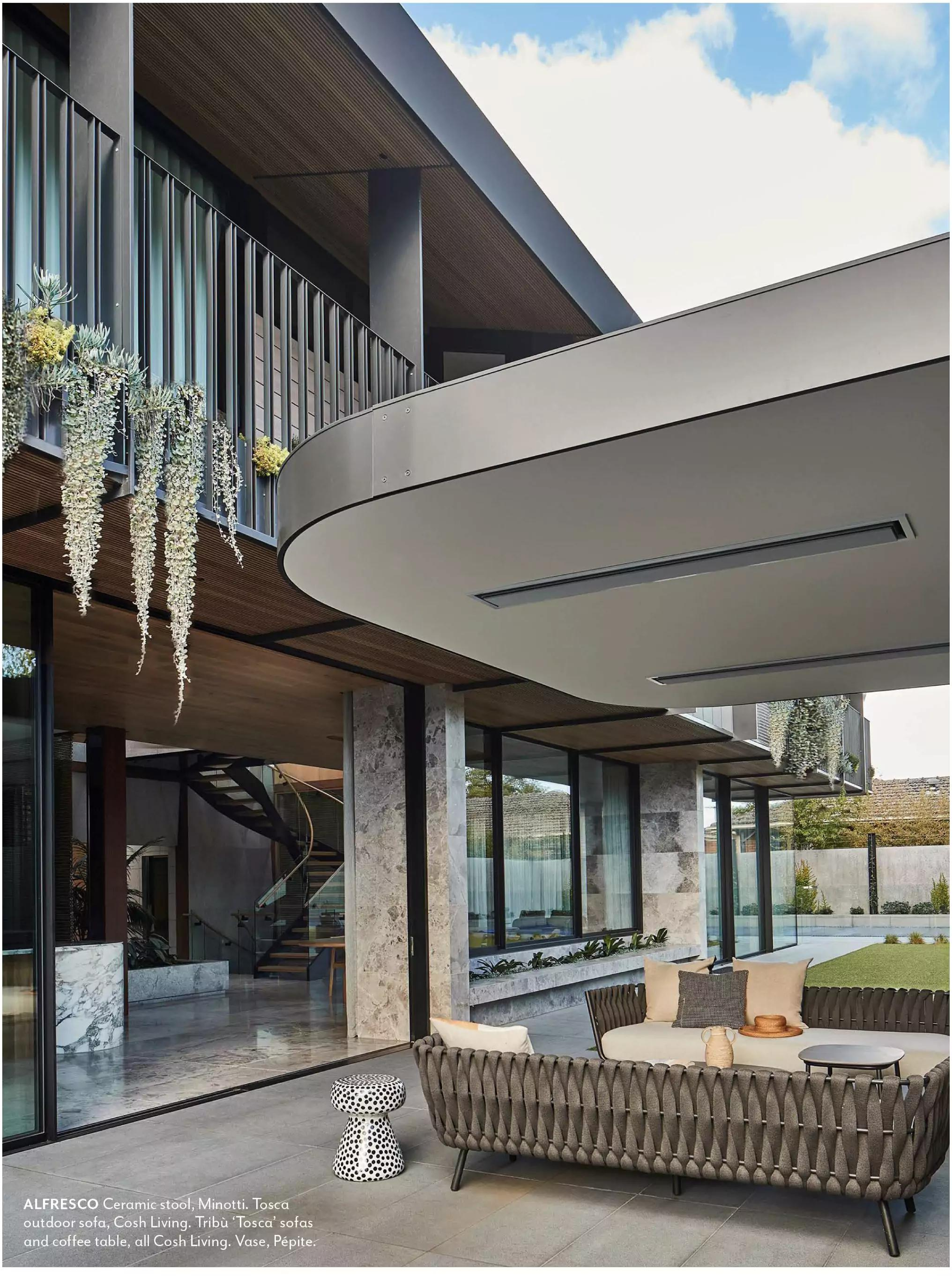
Upstairs, two existing bedrooms, a bathroom and powder room at the front were retained and renovated. Mirroring the pathway on the ground floor, these spaces are connected to the addition where there's now a living, small library, two bedrooms with ensuites and a spacious primary suite. In the main bedroom, the curved bedhead was a mathematical feat, with scalloped leather panels measured in perfect pieces and joined together seamlessly. With views out to the trees and cascading creepers spilling out from the balcony railings, it's a green haven on a sprawling block. "Natural light floods every room," says Stuart. "Our house feels suspended between nature and architectural beauty."

JOH Architects: joharchitects.com.au.
Unearthed Building & Design: unearthedbd.com.au.
Swee Design: sweedesign.com.au.

BEDROOM Bedhead in Warwick Fabrics 'La Casa' leather in Dove, New Image Upholstery. Bed linen, Abode. Lamp, Great Dane. **BATHROOM** *Opposite, top left* Vanity, Lignum Fine Furniture. 'Modi' tiles in Jungle, Perini. Sconces, ADesignStudio. Tapware, Hansgrohe. **ENSUITE** *Top right, bottom left* Vanity in American oak, Lignum Fine Furniture. Benchtop and tiles in Arabescato Vagli marble, Baron Forge. Tapware, Hansgrohe. Vase, Eun Ceramics. Stool, Hegi Design House. **SITTING ROOM** Walls in Unitex Uni-Rock in Grey. Maison Dada ottoman, Camerich. Chair and side tables, both Nayme. Lamp, Great Dane. Sculpture by Caitlin Robson. Rug, Bayliss Rugs.

THIS IS THE LIFE

"The house has a beautiful, seamless flow between indoor and outdoor spaces, especially through the striking glass walkway that connects the front and back of the home," says one of the owners. "The formal living room in particular, with its soaring ceilings and elongated fireplace, feels like a sanctuary and is ideal for both intimate gatherings and grand entertaining."



ALFRESCO Ceramic stool, Minotti. Tosca outdoor sofa, Cosh Living. Tribù 'Tosca' sofas and coffee table, all Cosh Living. Vase, Pépite.

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THE SOURCE

Layers of cool blues and greys bring a breath of fresh air to a glamorous designer scheme.

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Produced by Andrea Healy and Bethan Lacoba.

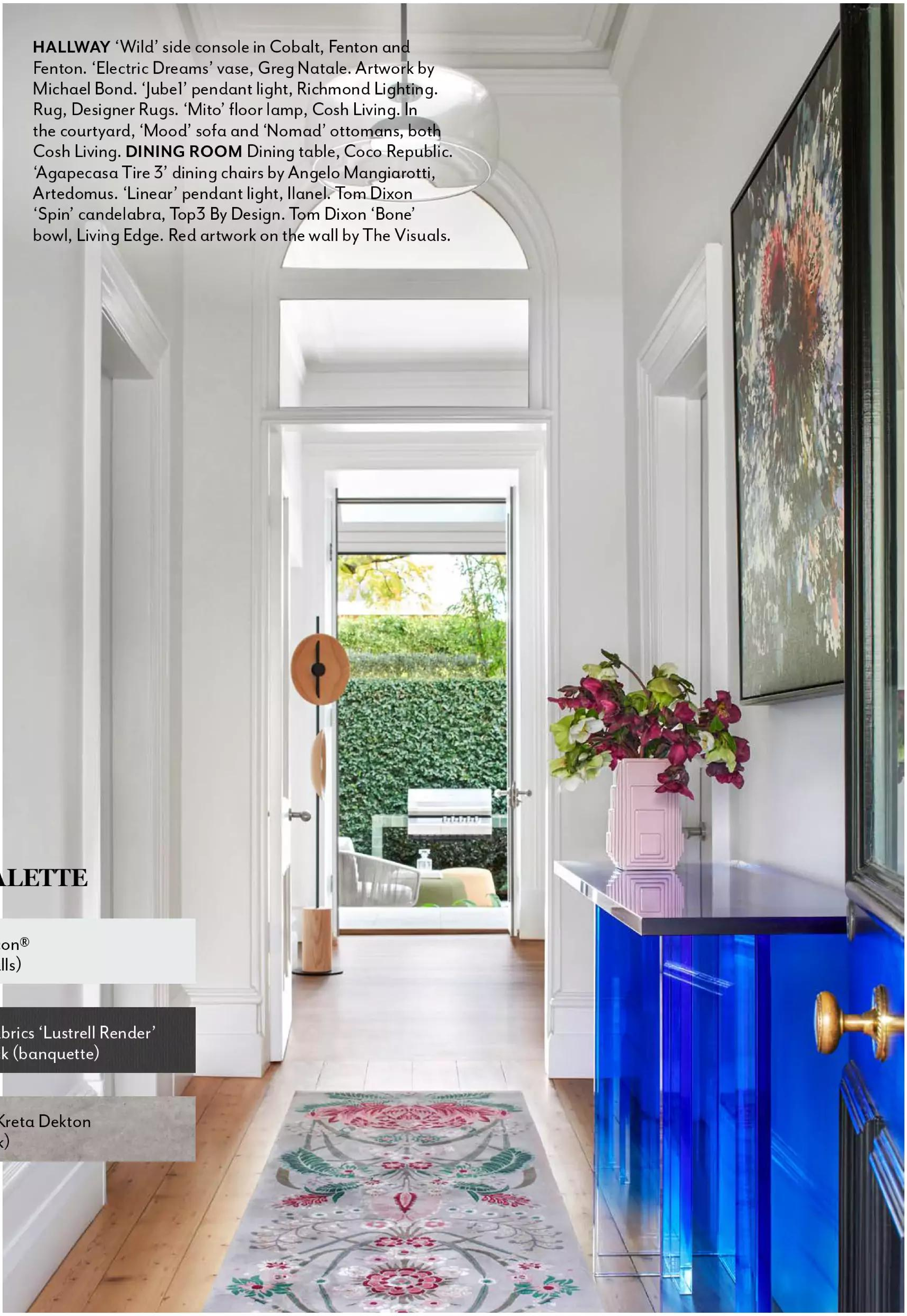
1 Gervasoni 'InOut 44' **stool** in Dots, POA, Anibou. **2** 'Double Bell' **dining table** in White Oak, POA, The Wood Room. **3** 'Modern Shape' **cushion cover** in Petrol, $59, West Elm. **4** Flos 'Snoopy' **table lamp** in Blue, $2520, Living Edge. **5** 'Blume' **ceramic sculpture** in Browne/Pearl, $475, Eun Ceramics. **6** Sofacompany 'Alma' **swivel armchair** in Grey Green, $1259, Life Interiors. **7** ClassiCon 'Roattino' **floor lamp**, $6512, Anibou. **8** Colorbond standing seam **architectural cladding** in Monument, POA, Bluescope. **9** Moroso 'Redono' **sofa**, from $5484/armchair, Mobilia. **10** 'Davenport' **side table**, $899, Domayne. **H&G**

Fresh TAKE

A historical bluestone miner's cottage in inner Melbourne has reached its full potential with a charming revival.

STORY *Carli Philips*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Nicole England*

EXTERIOR Garden bench seat, Matt Blatt. Floral and orange cushions, Adairs.



HALLWAY 'Wild' side console in Cobalt, Fenton and Fenton. 'Electric Dreams' vase, Greg Natale. Artwork by Michael Bond. 'Jubel' pendant light, Richmond Lighting. Rug, Designer Rugs. 'Mito' floor lamp, Cosh Living. In the courtyard, 'Mood' sofa and 'Nomad' ottomans, both Cosh Living. **DINING ROOM** Dining table, Coco Republic. 'Agapecasa Tire 3' dining chairs by Angelo Mangiarotti, Artedomus. 'Linear' pendant light, Ilanel. Tom Dixon 'Spin' candelabra, Top3 By Design. Tom Dixon 'Bone' bowl, Living Edge. Red artwork on the wall by The Visuals.

THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon®
(interior walls)

Warwick Fabrics 'Lustrell Render'
vinyl in Black (banquette)

Cosentino Kreta Dekton
(splashback)

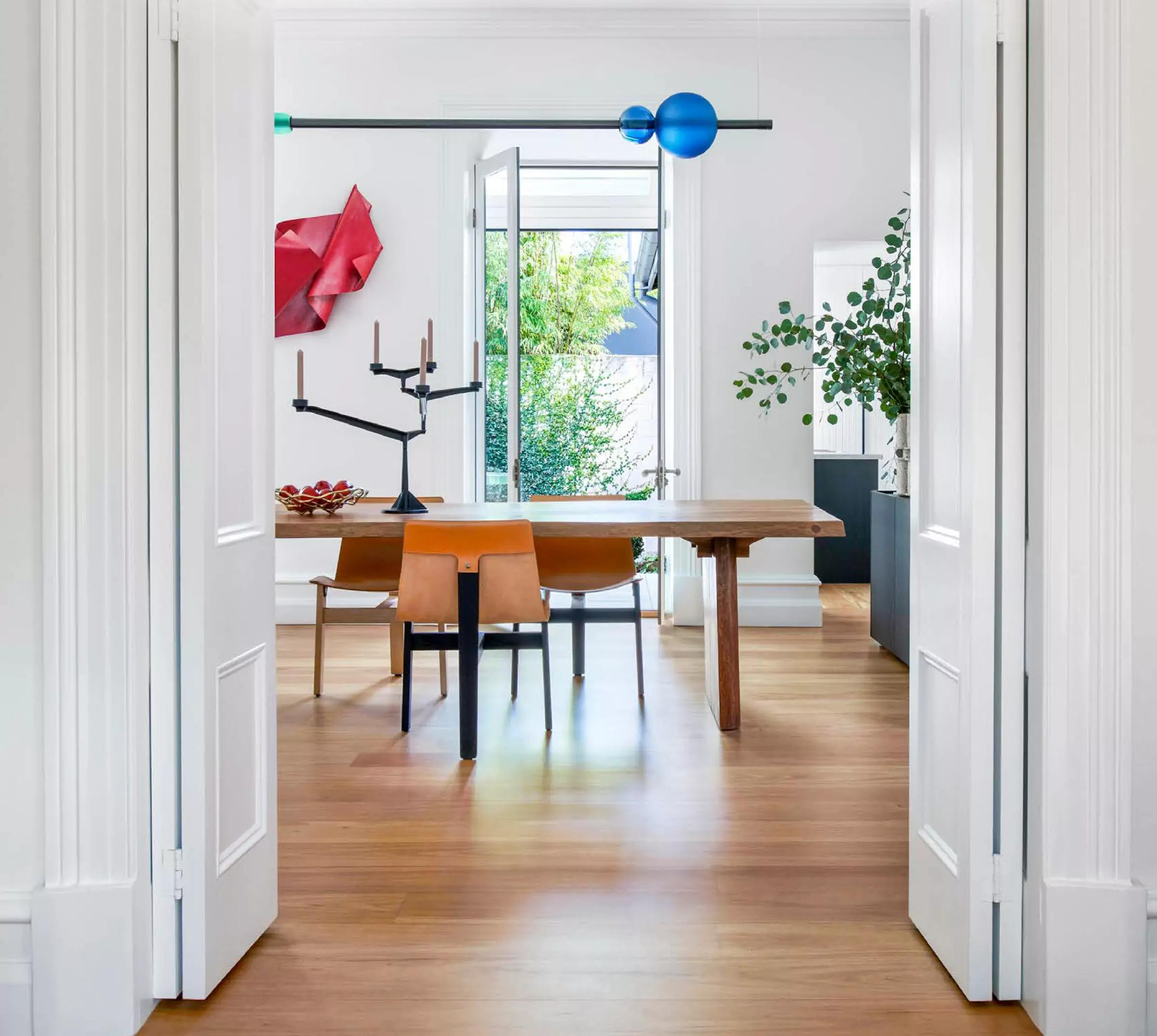
Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

Blue and grey with the slightest trace of indigo, the bluestone facade of this 170-year old miner's cottage in Melbourne's inner east is one of the oldest in the area. Framed by two Pyrus trees with original leadlight glass and a wide patio overlooking parkland, it's a charming blast from the past.

The owners, a young family with two kids, had been living in the house for a while before they decided to renovate. They loved all of its original features and wanted to keep it all, from the ornate skirting boards to the architraves. The fireplaces and French doors were celebrated and, staying sympathetic to the bones of the building, everything made from bluestone was retained. A second floor was added with a bathroom and three bedrooms (one that was partially created from an attic roof space) that also utilised one of the existing bluestone walls.

Interior designer Patricia Davila of The Stylesmiths worked on the project alongside Nicole Rutherford, and although the owners were open-minded, they were at first set on an achromatic scheme.

"Initially, their desire for a black and white palette was a bit of a challenge for me, as I've always felt that those projects can come across as cold," says Patricia. "However, I embraced the challenge and found ways to balance the monochrome aesthetic. While the internal architecture of the house aligns with the brief, I worked to warm up the space by selecting rich, textured materials and lighting. I also added pops of colour through furniture, accessories, and bold artwork to create a more vibrant and cosy environment." ▶



FORMAL LIVING Burany frost curtains, Gazelli. ‘Implode’ pendant light, Richmond Light. Sofa, The Sofa Shop. Rug, Designer Rugs. ’Crescent’ ottoman and coffee table, both King Living. *Opposite, clockwise from top* **KITCHEN** Splashback in Kreta Dekton, Cosentino. *Alberta 1* artwork, Clu Living. On shelf: ‘Pallino’ table lamp, King Living. **TV ROOM** ‘Plaza’ sofa, King Living. Tom Dixon ‘Melt’ floor lamp and *Brush Yam* artwork by Jeannie Mills Pwerle, both Top3 By Design. **MUD ROOM** Wall lights, Ilanel. Banquette in Warwick Fabrics ‘Lustrell Render’ in Black.

Patricia electrified the entry with a vibrant, dip-dyed, cobalt acrylic console, one of the home’s most contemporary furniture pieces. On the left side of the hall, the walk-in robe and ensuite was renovated as a new main bedroom suite for the parents. Special attention was given to the bathroom with its curved wall, large freestanding bath, Japanese Inax tiles, Elba stone flooring and mirrors that hang from the ceiling so as not to interfere with the bluestone wall. “We didn’t want to fight against it, so just embraced it,” says Patricia.

On the opposite side of the hallway, the formal living opens via double doors to a restored dining room, where a dramatic custom ‘Comet’ pendant by local designer ILANEL features hand-blown blue glass orbs threaded onto an elongated tube.

When it came time to remodel the kitchen, the budget had already blown out so they couldn’t make any structural modifications. Nonetheless, it looks new, thanks to a series of innovative cosmetic changes that Patricia executed. Most notably, rather than install a stone benchtop as planned, she retained the two stainless steel tops to keep costs down, giving the silver surface combined with the vaulted roof an industrial farmhouse vibe.

“I concealed all the appliances to create a cleaner, more streamlined look. I also removed the handles and replaced the blackbutt timber cupboard fronts with black woodgrained melamine. To tie everything together, I updated the tall, flat-black joinery with a grooved white finish, which feels like a natural continuation of the gorgeous existing pitched ceiling,” she says. Patricia also introduced a leather banquette ▶

> “I added colour through accessories and bold artwork to create a more vibrant environment.” PATRICIA DAVILA, INTERIOR DESIGNER

along the back wall that extends into the mudroom.

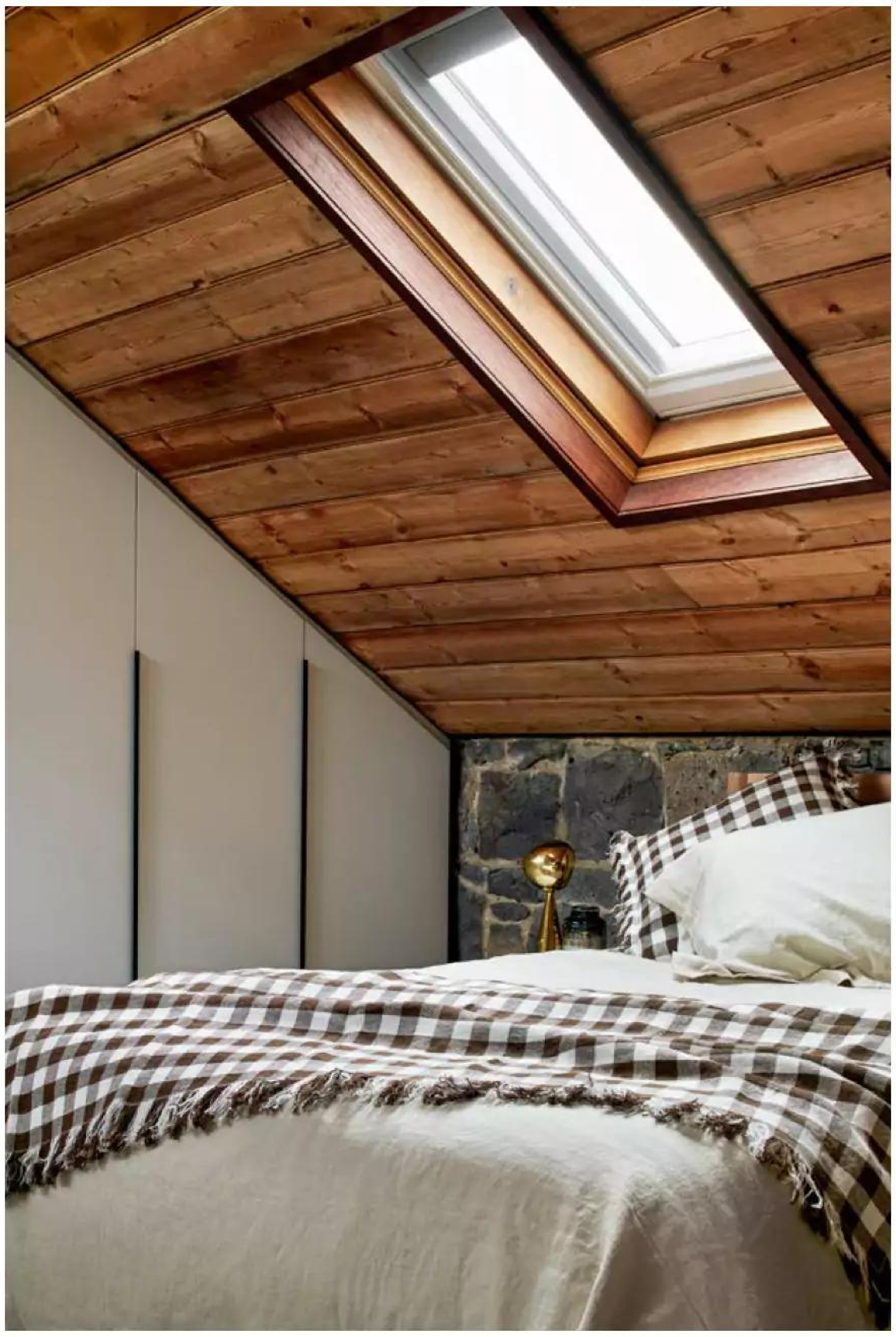
The floorplan was pushed out along the eastern boundary to create a study with a curved, timber batten-clad wall. And, at the rear, the old weatherboard extension was torn up and an addition by Content Studio built in its place.

The connection from the old to the new was simple and clean-cut with an obvious transition from the beautiful historical features to the minimalist lines of the new contemporary environment and family room.

"With the bifold doors opening out onto the cleverly designed and lush rear courtyard, it's a space that our family enjoys year-round," says one of the owners. "Every room in the house has some aspect to the original established front garden or lush contemporary green courtyard with its original jacaranda tree – it really feels like an urban retreat." ▸

The Stylesmiths: *the-stylesmiths.com.* ***Content Studio:*** *contentstudio.com.au.* ***Weygang Constructions. Kate Patterson Landscape Design:*** *@katepattersonld.*

MAIN BEDROOM 'Serenade' bedhead, King Living. Bed linen, L&M Home. Tom Dixon 'Bell' table lamp, Top3 By Design. Artwork by Richard Misso. **MAIN BATHROOM** *Opposite, top left and below right.* Tapware, ABI Interiors. 'Terrassa' bath, Victoria + Albert. 'Elba' vanity and floor tiles and side table, all Artedomus. Tapware, ABI Interiors. 'Dot' wall lights, IIANEL. **ATTIC BEDROOM** *Top right* Bed linen, L&M Home. Tom Dixon table lamp, Top3 By Design. Robe doors in Melamine Castel finish. **STUDY** *Bottom left* Chair, Top3 by Design. Table lamp, King Living.



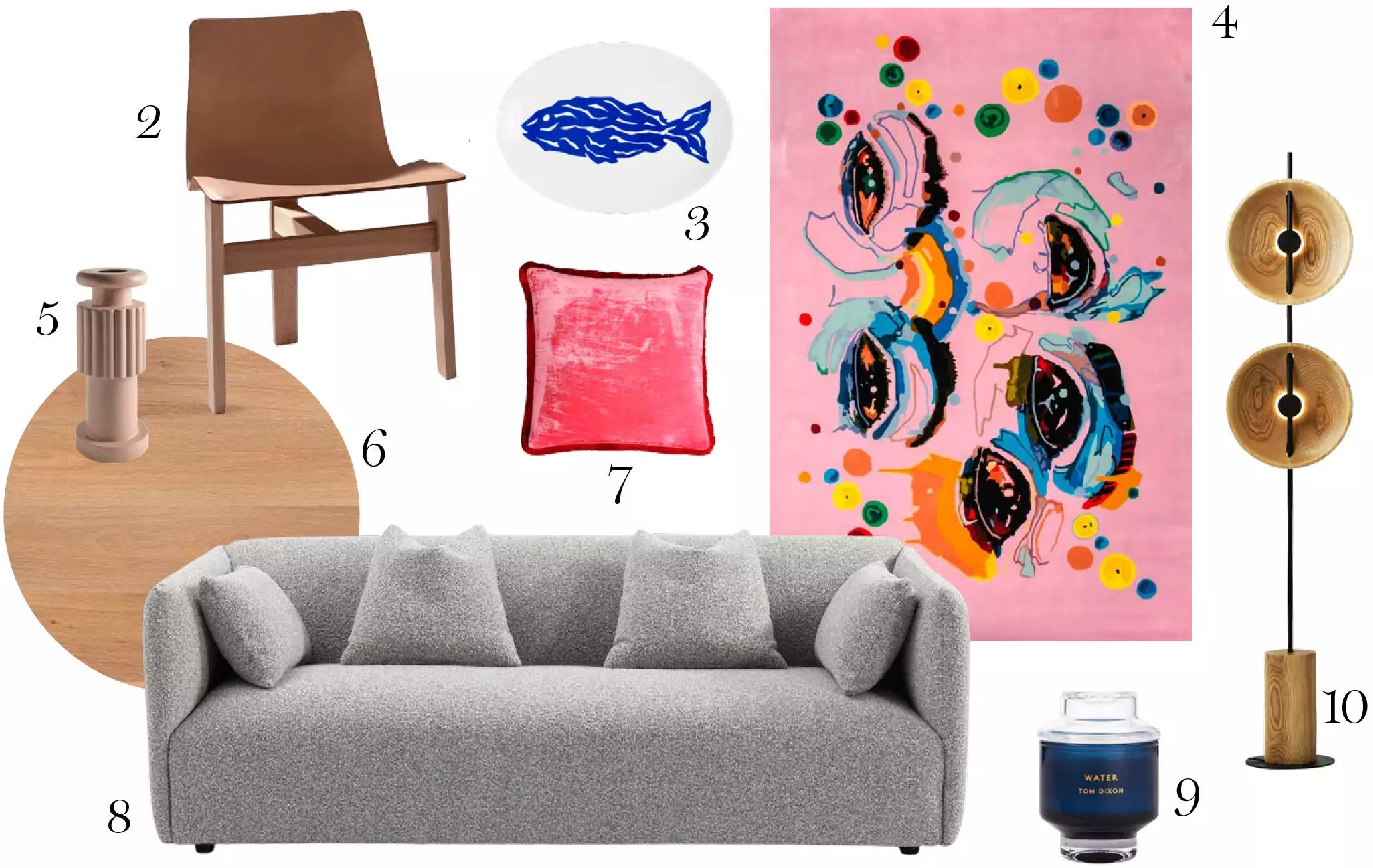
TERRACE Landscape design by Kate Patterson Landscape Design, executed by North to South Landscapes and Pools. 'Mood' sofa and armchair. 'Nomad' ottomans, Cosh Living.

THIS IS THE LIFE

"We love the close proximity to all that our local suburb has to offer, including its many bars, restaurants and shops," says the owner. "We are lucky enough to live in a secluded pocket near to the local school and a beautiful park, which are the hub of our amazing community. What really drew us to this home was its history and established front garden."

THE SOURCE

Layers of vibrant colour paired with interesting designer pieces bring neutral interiors to life.



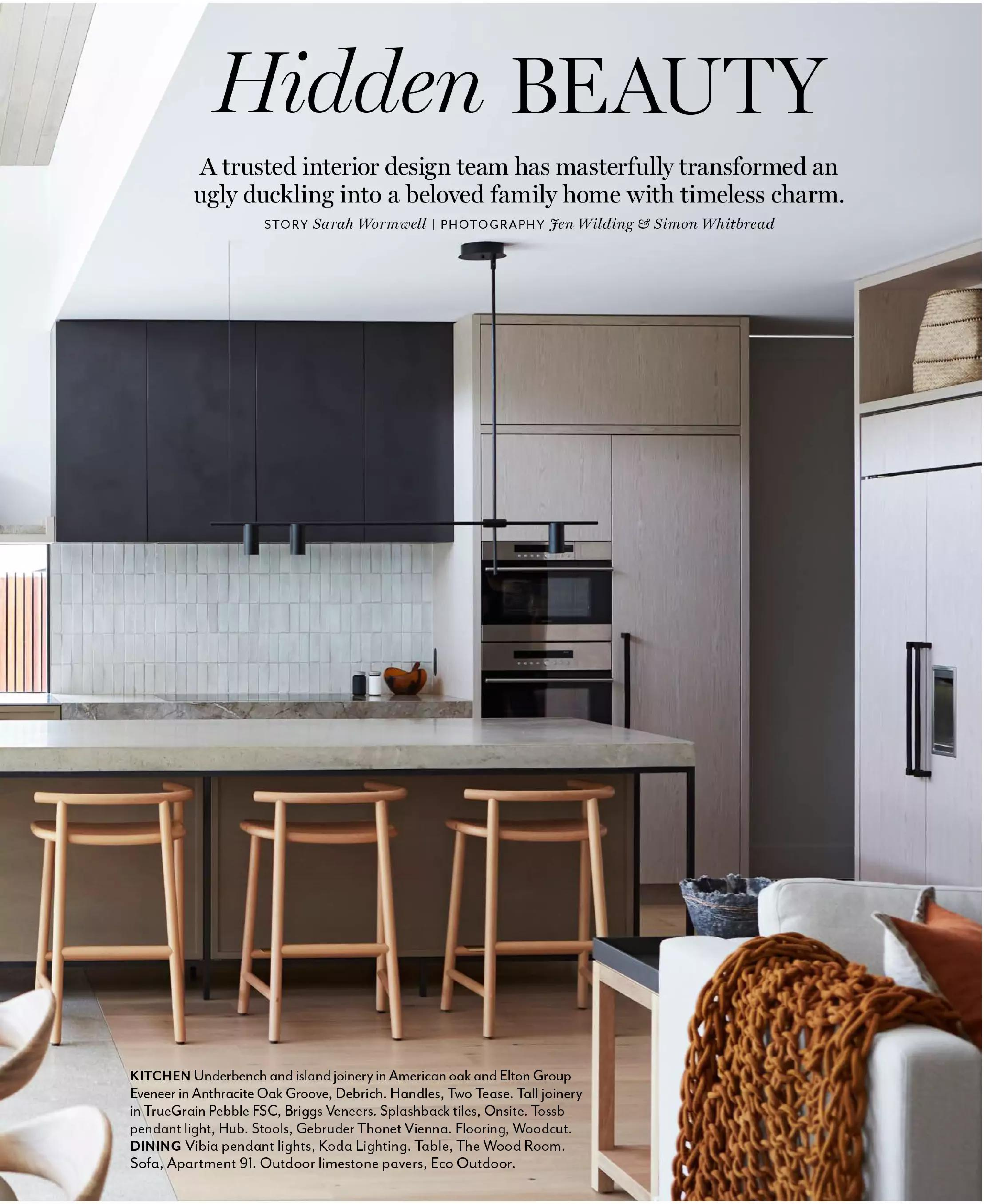
1 Audo Copenhagen 'Interconnect' **candle holder** in Polished Brass, $1120, Top3 by Design. **2** Agapecasa 'Tre 3' **chair**, POA, Artedomus. **3** 'Le Merou' **serving platter**, $89, Maison Balzac. **4** Del Kathryn Barton 'Pink Eye' **rug** (300x200cm), $7300, Designer Rugs. **5** 'Depeche Mode' **vase** in Bisque, $580, Greg Natale. **6** 'Amalfi' **timber flooring** in Positano, POA, Carpet Court. **7** Utopia **cushion** in Rosa, $190, Fenton & Fenton. **8** 'Luna' three-seater **sofa** in Stone, $2300, Trit House. **9** Tom Dixon 'Elements' **scented candle** in Water, $299, Libertine Parfumerie. **10** 'Mito' **floor lamp**, $6175, Cosh Living. **H&G**

Produced by Andrea Healy.

Hidden BEAUTY

A trusted interior design team has masterfully transformed an ugly duckling into a beloved family home with timeless charm.

STORY *Sarah Wormwell* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jen Wilding & Simon Whitbread*



KITCHEN Underbench and island joinery in American oak and Elton Group Eveneer in Anthracite Oak Groove, Debrich. Handles, Two Tease. Tall joinery in TrueGrain Pebble FSC, Briggs Veneers. Splashback tiles, Onsite. Tossb pendant light, Hub. Stools, Gebruder Thonet Vienna. Flooring, Woodcut. **DINING** Vibia pendant lights, Koda Lighting. Table, The Wood Room. Sofa, Apartment 91. Outdoor limestone pavers, Eco Outdoor.

It's the stuff of fairy tales. Over a hundred years ago council records deemed this home on Sydney's Lower North Shore the "ugliest house on the street". Over the decades, several renovations failed to improve the home's aesthetic. Yet in 2019 when the property again became available for sale, the current owners recognised immediately that its "innate beauty" lay in its perfect proportions for easy family living.

Perched on a large, flat block, with bedrooms located together on the upper floor and an abundance of communal space on the two floors below meant it was ideally suited to a family of six – four of whom were in their early teens.

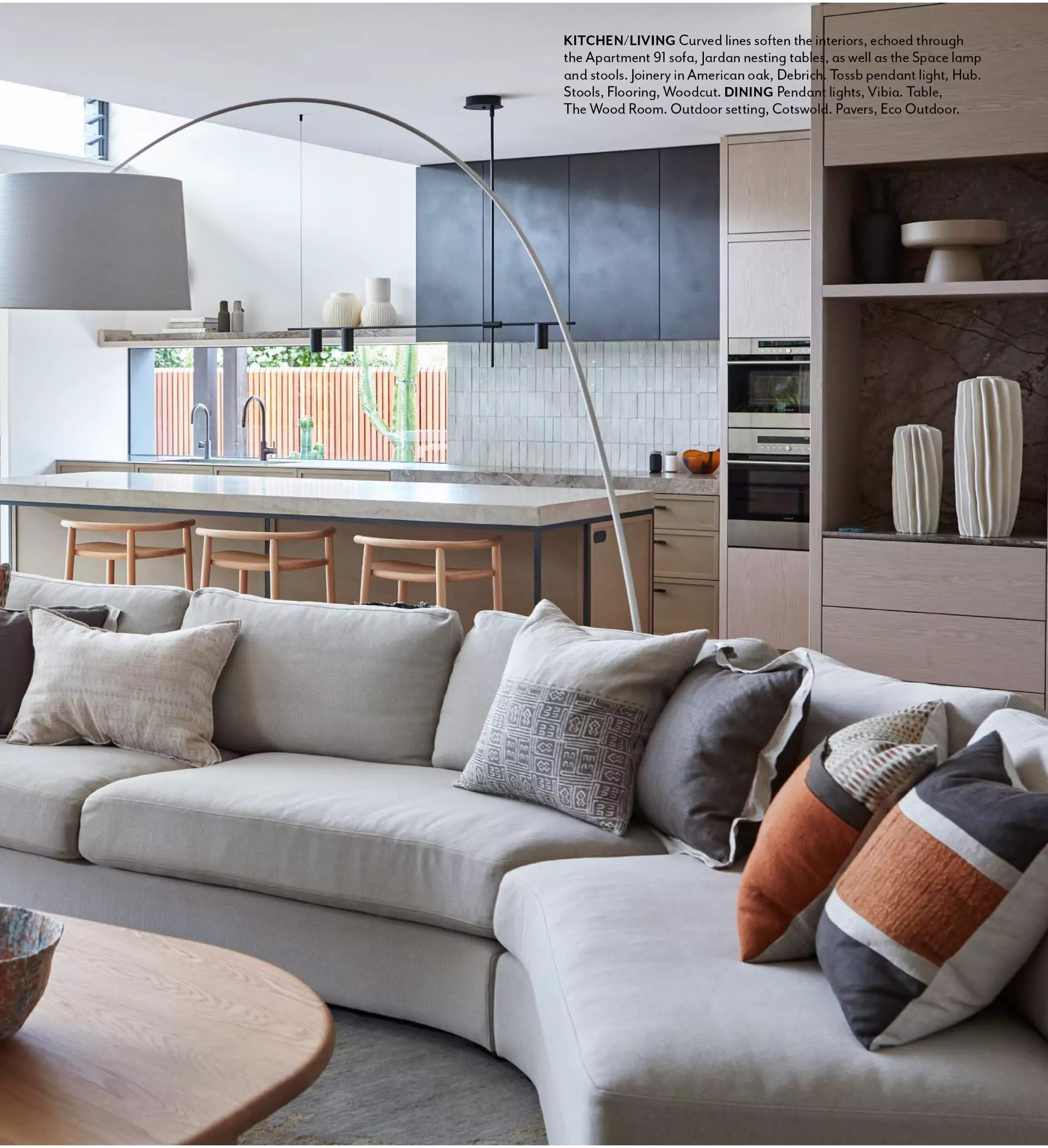
Determined to "look past the ugly" the owners enlisted interior designer Meryl Hare of Hare + Klein, whose work they had long admired, to "fairy godmother" the home into the best version of itself.

Initially the brief was to simply refresh the interiors, particularly the kitchen and dining to ensure they became the heart of the home. The ground floor layout was typical of the Federation period: a series of rooms running off a long, dark hallway with poor connection to the garden.

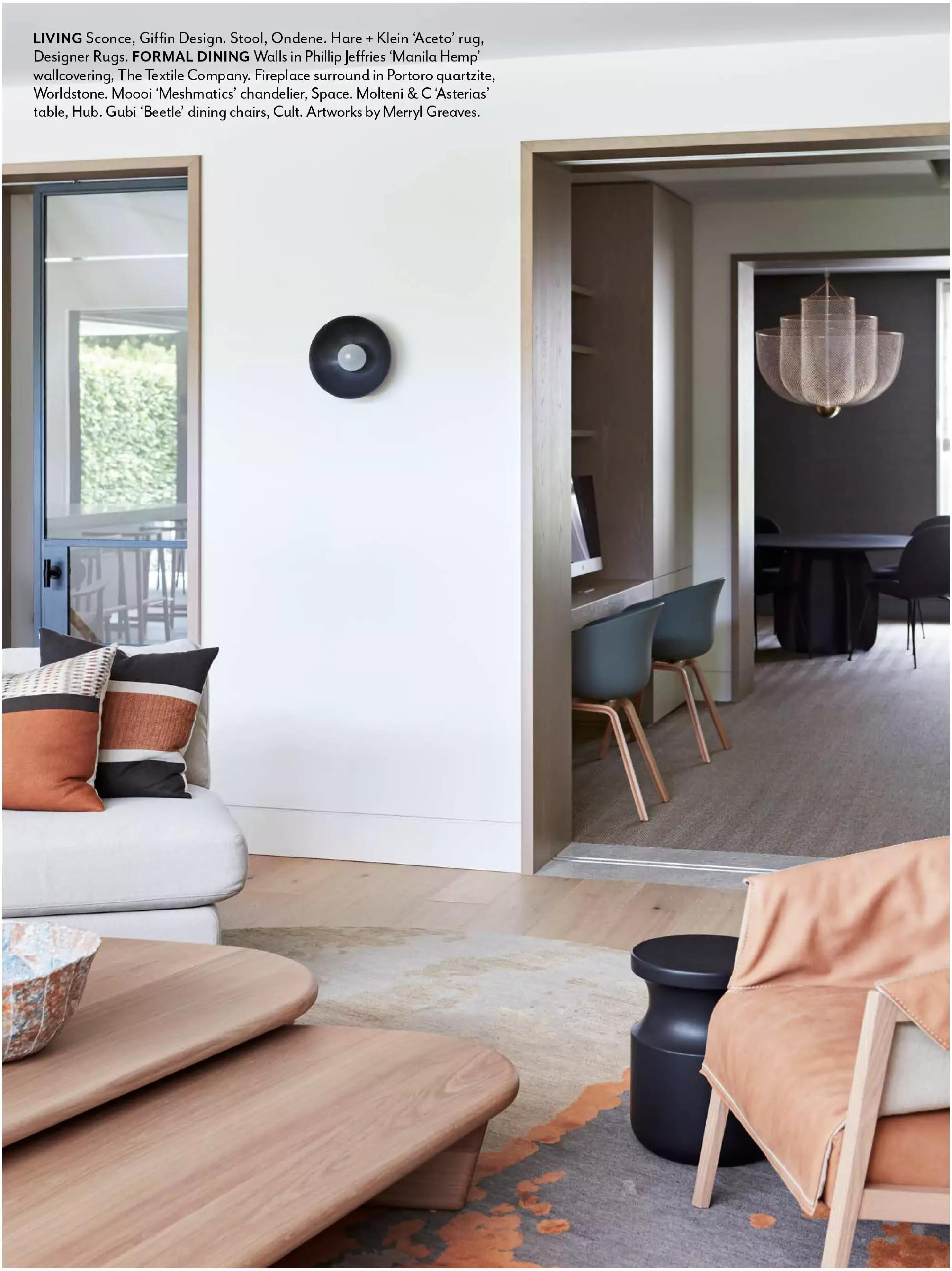
"The central idea was to improve the flow of the home, to get the energy circulating front to the back and to brighten the interior with natural light," says Meryl.

It quickly became evident structural change would be needed to realise the home's full potential. Meryl recommended architect Linda James of James Design Studio be recruited for her ability to thoughtfully transform heritage homes. Crucially she also suggested landscape architect, Matt Cantwell of Secret Gardens be engaged at the same time – so landscaping could be considered from the outset.

Stripping away layers of previous renovations became James' starting point. "While the home wasn't an exemplar of late Federation architecture, taking it back to its origins and using the era as inspiration helps it sit harmoniously in the neighbourhood," she says. ▶



KITCHEN/LIVING Curved lines soften the interiors, echoed through the Apartment 91 sofa, Jardan nesting tables, as well as the Space lamp and stools. Joinery in American oak, Debrich. Tossb pendant light, Hub. Stools, Flooring, Woodcut. **DINING** Pendant lights, Vibia. Table, The Wood Room. Outdoor setting, Cotswold. Pavers, Eco Outdoor.

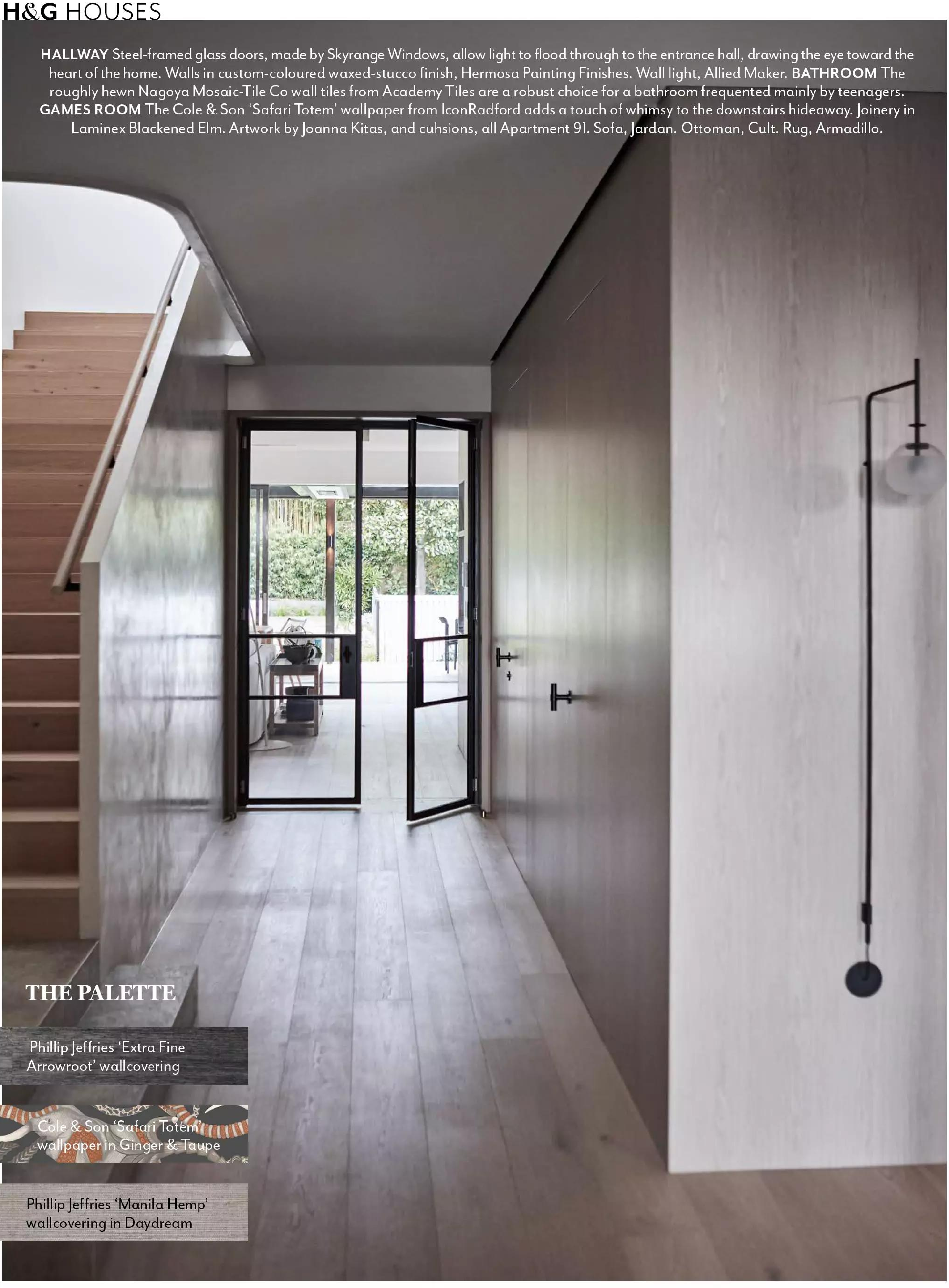


LIVING Sconce, Giffin Design. Stool, Ondene. Hare + Klein 'Aceto' rug, Designer Rugs. **FORMAL DINING** Walls in Phillip Jeffries 'Manila Hemp' wallcovering, The Textile Company. Fireplace surround in Portoro quartzite, Worldstone. Moooi 'Meshmatics' chandelier, Space. Molteni & C 'Asterias' table, Hub. Gubi 'Beetle' dining chairs, Cult. Artworks by Merryl Greaves.

“I couldn’t have imagined how much our home would perfectly suit our needs.”

THE OWNER

HALLWAY Steel-framed glass doors, made by Skyrange Windows, allow light to flood through to the entrance hall, drawing the eye toward the heart of the home. Walls in custom-coloured waxed-stucco finish, Hermosa Painting Finishes. Wall light, Allied Maker. **BATHROOM** The roughly hewn Nagoya Mosaic-Tile Co wall tiles from Academy Tiles are a robust choice for a bathroom frequented mainly by teenagers. **GAMES ROOM** The Cole & Son 'Safari Totem' wallpaper from IconRadford adds a touch of whimsy to the downstairs hideaway. Joinery in Laminex Blackened Elm. Artwork by Joanna Kitas, and cuhsions, all Apartment 91. Sofa, Jardan. Ottoman, Cult. Rug, Armadillo.



THE PALETTE

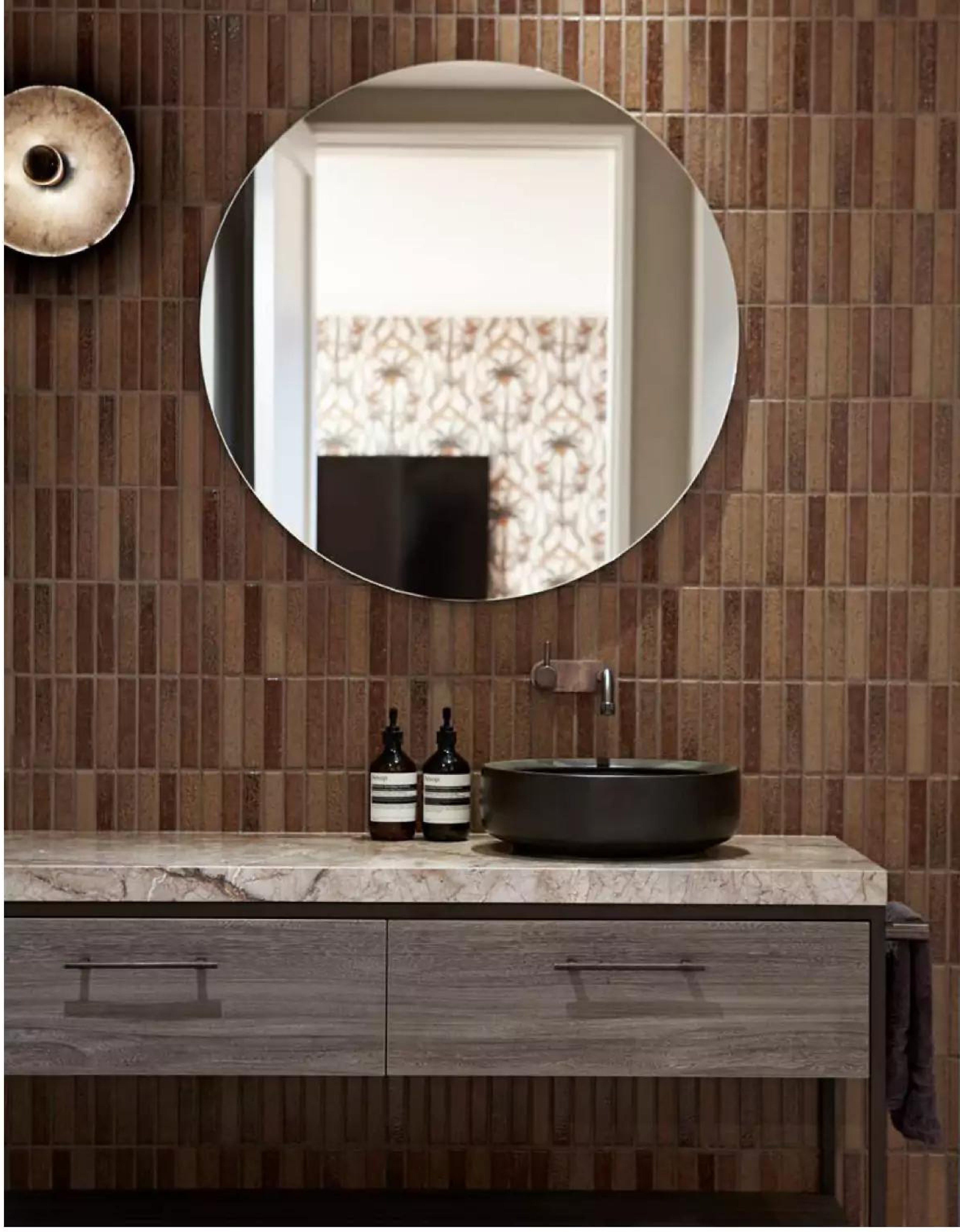
Phillip Jeffries 'Extra Fine Arrowroot' wallcovering

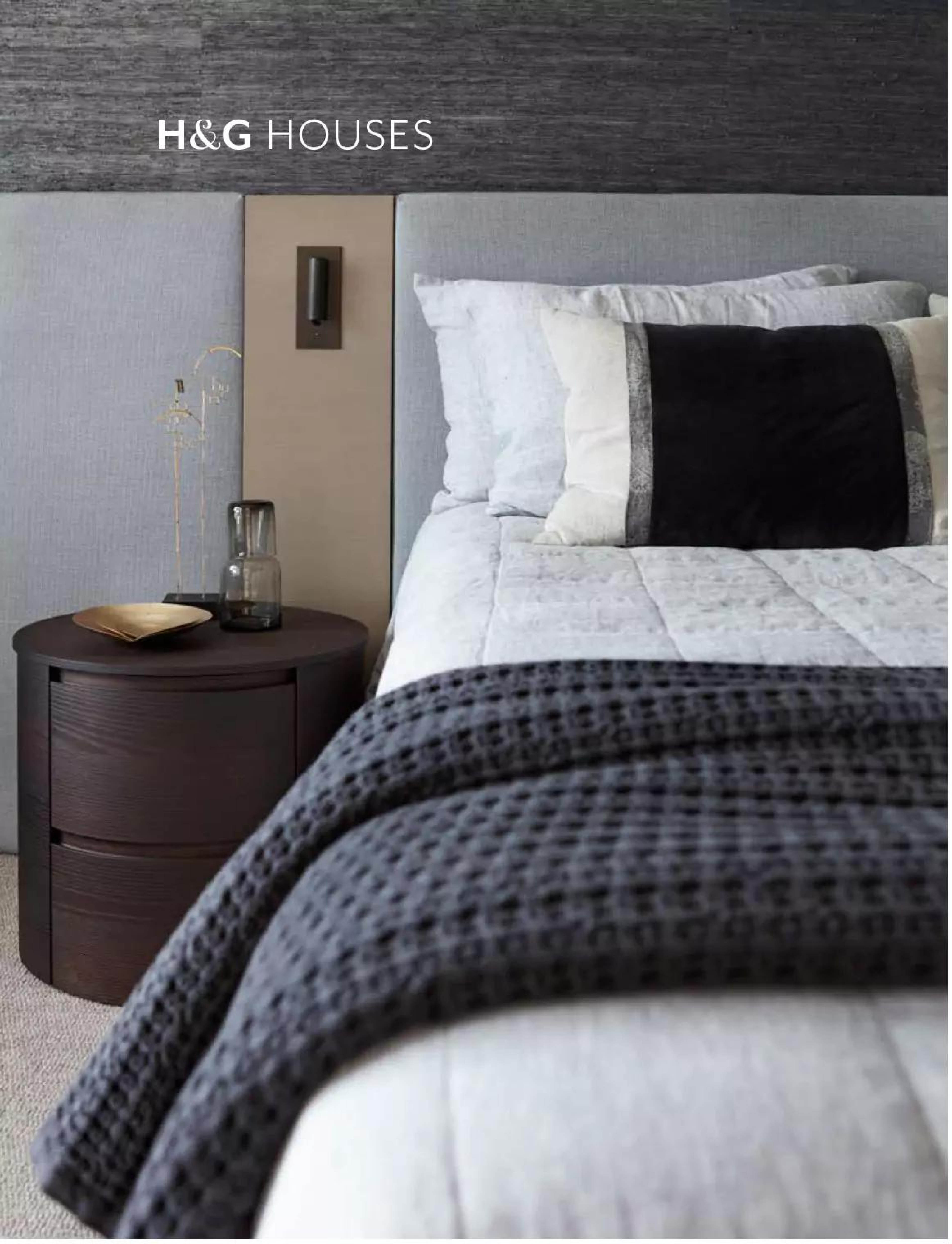
Cole & Son 'Safari Totem' wallpaper in Ginger & Taupe

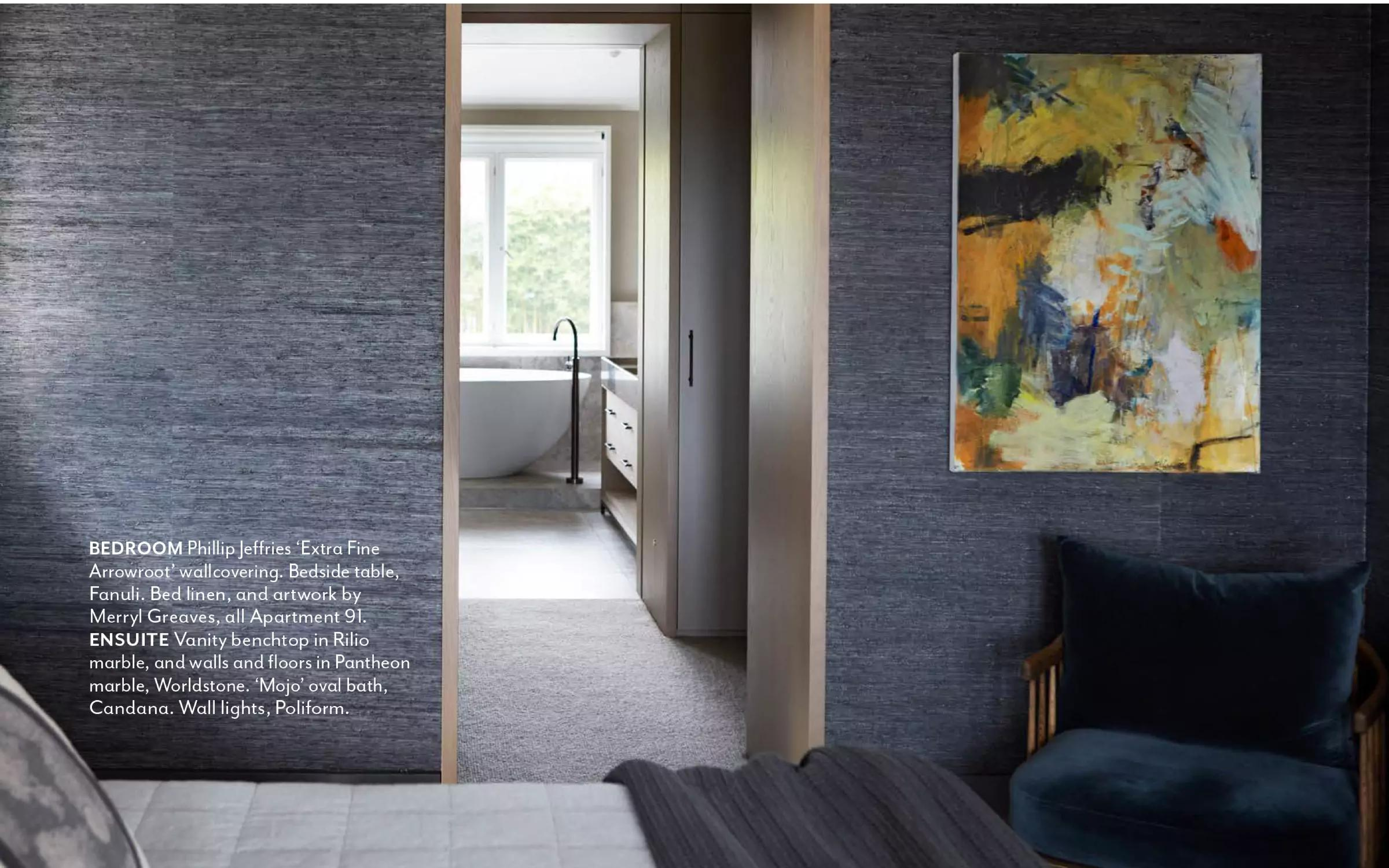
Phillip Jeffries 'Manila Hemp' wallcovering in Daydream

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

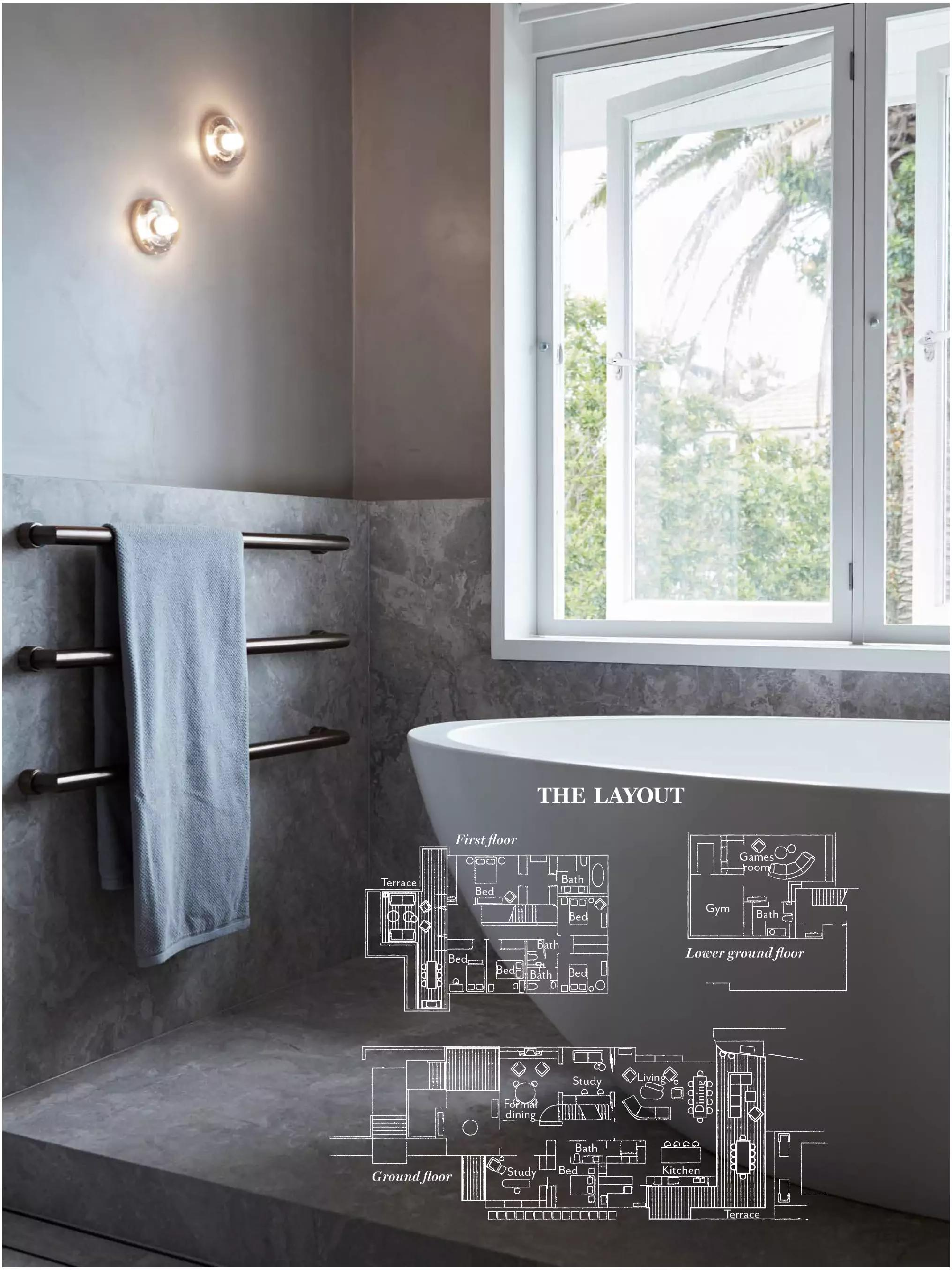
> “The central idea was to improve the flow of the home.
>
> MERYL HARE, INTERIOR DESIGNER





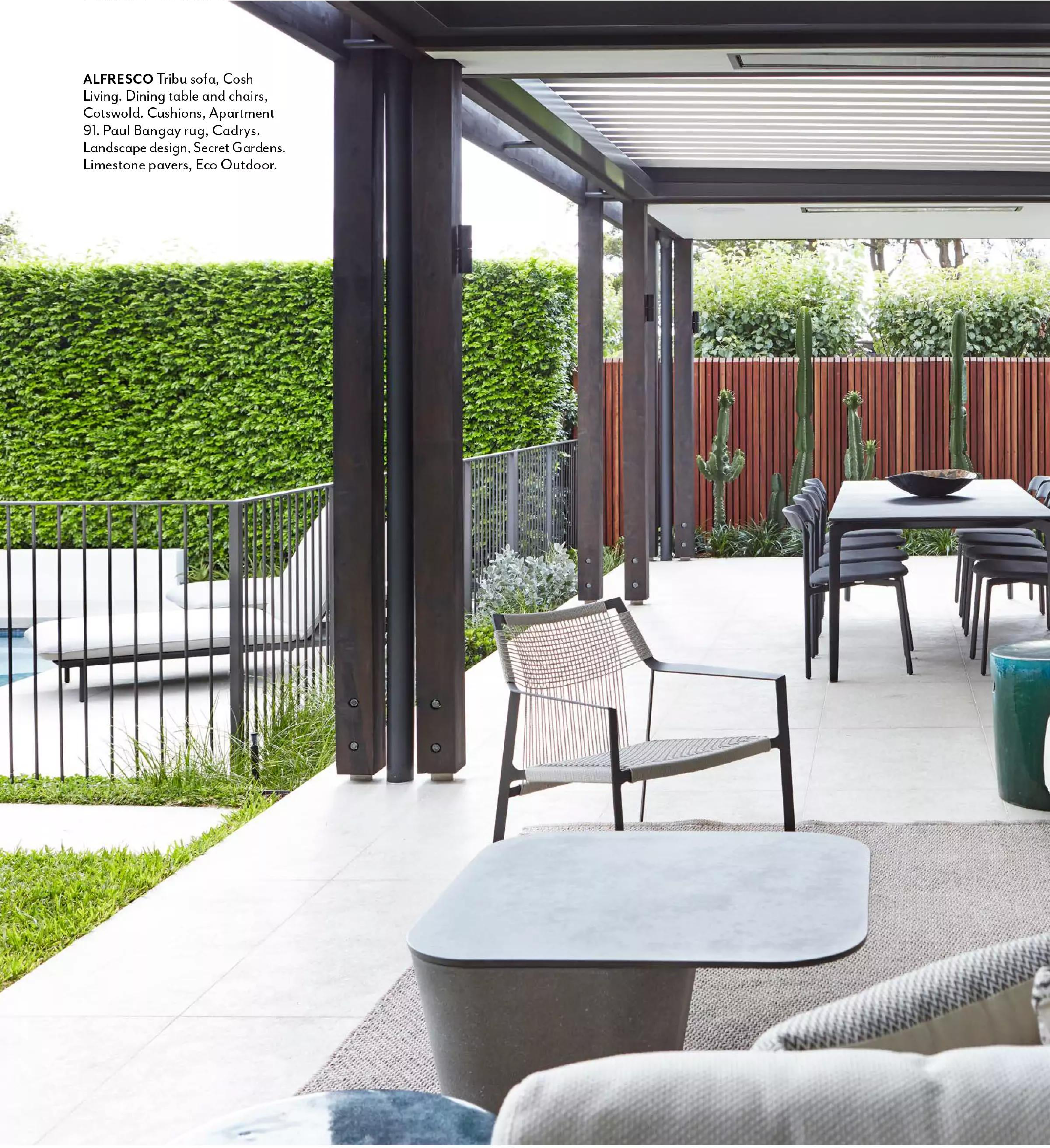


BEDROOM Phillip Jeffries 'Extra Fine Arrowroot' wallcovering. Bedside table, Fanuli. Bed linen, and artwork by Merryl Greaves, all Apartment 91. **ENSUITE** Vanity benchtop in Rilio marble, and walls and floors in Pantheon marble, Worldstone. 'Mojo' oval bath, Candana. Wall lights, Poliform.



THE LAYOUT

First floor
Terrace
Bed
Bath
Bed
Bath
Bed
Bed
Bath
Bed
Games room
Gym
Bath
Lower ground floor
Study
Living
Formal dining
Dining
Bath
Study
Bed
Kitchen
Ground floor
Terrace



ALFRESCO Tribu sofa, Cosh Living. Dining table and chairs, Cotswold. Cushions, Apartment 91. Paul Bangay rug, Cadrys. Landscape design, Secret Gardens. Limestone pavers, Eco Outdoor.

James' design reimagines Federation features. A hexagonal bay window was squared off, the existing entrance was retained, but elongated in height and width for greater elegance. Rough cast render – typical of the period – was applied to the entire exterior to unify the whole.

For the interiors, Meryl and her colleagues, Maddie Helyer and Kristie Nixon, who also project managed the renovation, devised a new tonal palette of layered textures and natural materials. The lightened scheme pulls you from the the front through to the open plan and out to the garden. Steel-framed glass doors are key to the enhanced flow, allowing better connection between rooms even when closed. An angular "faux" French staircase has been reworked. Its new, elegant curves emphasised by the addition of a skylight above to flood the space with light.

While the owners articulated the importance of a new kitchen and living space, Meryl was given complete creative freedom. "With great trust comes greater responsibility," says Meryl, who intuited that a comfortable, casual elegance was required as well as robust choices.

Hardwearing herringbone sisal and hemp wallcoverings in high-traffic areas as well as a concrete kitchen benchtop are beautifully understated – yet functional for energetic teens and keen entertainers.

On the upper level, Meryl's vision again proved correct. The floor now hosts a spacious main suite as well as four children's bedrooms and a "his & hers" kids' bathroom. Yet the home's crowning glory is a top floor terrace, with views across the harbour, with a second outdoor entertaining area.

"In my wildest dreams I couldn't have imagined how much our home would perfectly suit our needs – it has just made life so much more comfortable," says the owner. "It's an added bonus that we also think it's truly beautiful." ▶

Hare + Klein: *hareklein.com.au.* ***Sandlik:*** *sandlik.com.au.* ***James Design Studio:*** *jamesdesignstudio.com.au.* ***Secret Gardens:*** *secretgardens.com.au.*

THIS IS THE LIFE

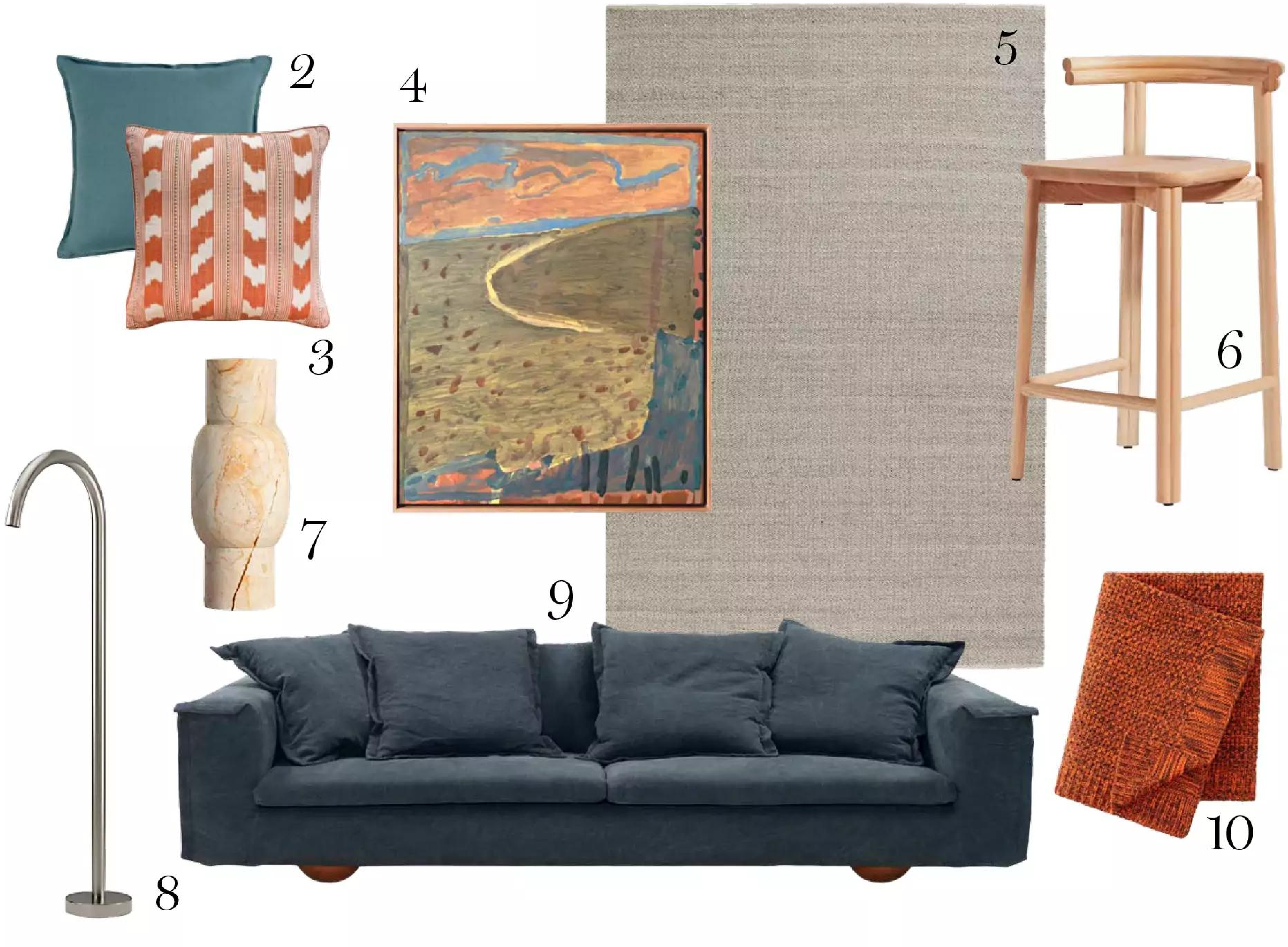
"Engaging our landscape architect from day one was some of the best advice we received," say the owners of hiring Matt Cantwell from Secret Gardens. "He transformed the overgrown backyard and also replaced an unused swing set with a fab firepit. It was completely finished from the day we moved in, which has been fantastic because we use it all the time."

> "Taking the house back to its origins ... helps it sit harmoniously in the neighbourhood."
>
> MERYL HARE

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING Landscape design and firepit, Secret Gardens. Scatter cushions, Apartment 91. 'Stanley' stools, Jardan.

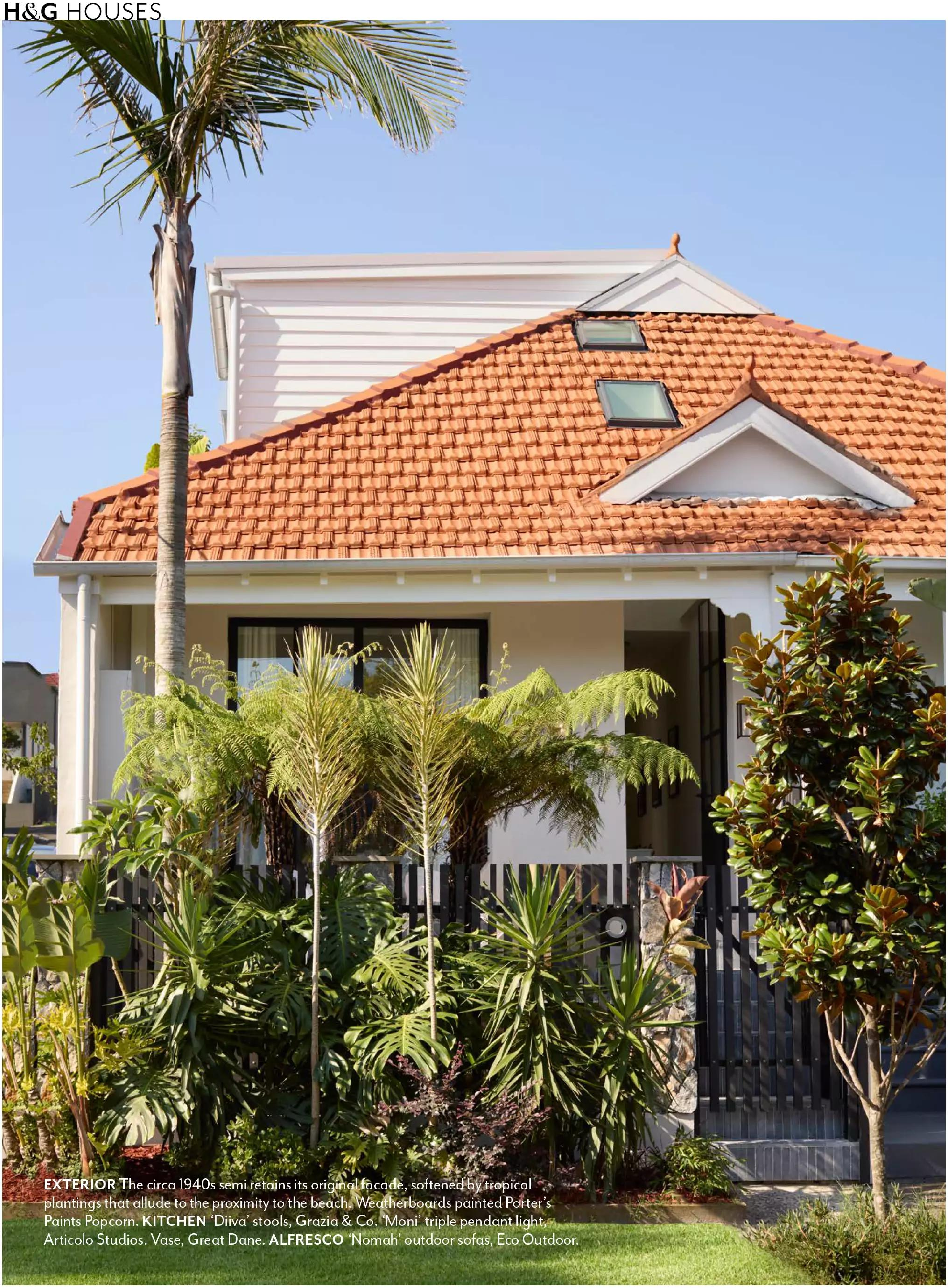
THE SOURCE

For a pared-back, relaxed mood, accent classic furniture and neutral tones with warm hints of orange and blue.



Produced by Marissa Foye.

1 Pablo Designs 'Bola Disc' **pendant light** in Brass, $949, Enlightened Living. **2** 'Lido' **cushion cover** in Gum (55cm), $75, No Chintz. **3** 'Absurd' **cushion cover** in Ginger, $172, No Chintz. **4** Dawns Hues **artwork** by Ash Leslie (85x75cm), $3500, Saint Cloche. **5** 'Matterhorn' **rug** in Basalt (300x200cm), $1050, RJ Living. **6** 'Twill' **counter chair** in Solid Ash, $903, DesignByThem. **7** Inartisan 'Ianthe' **sandstone vase**, $299, Aura Home. **8** 'Elysian' floor-mounted **bath filler** in Brushed Nickel, $429, ABI Interiors. **9** 'Sunny' two-and-a-half seater **sofa** in Ocean linen, $10,941, Jardan. **10** 'Caral' **throw** in Harvest, $220, Sheridan. **H&G**

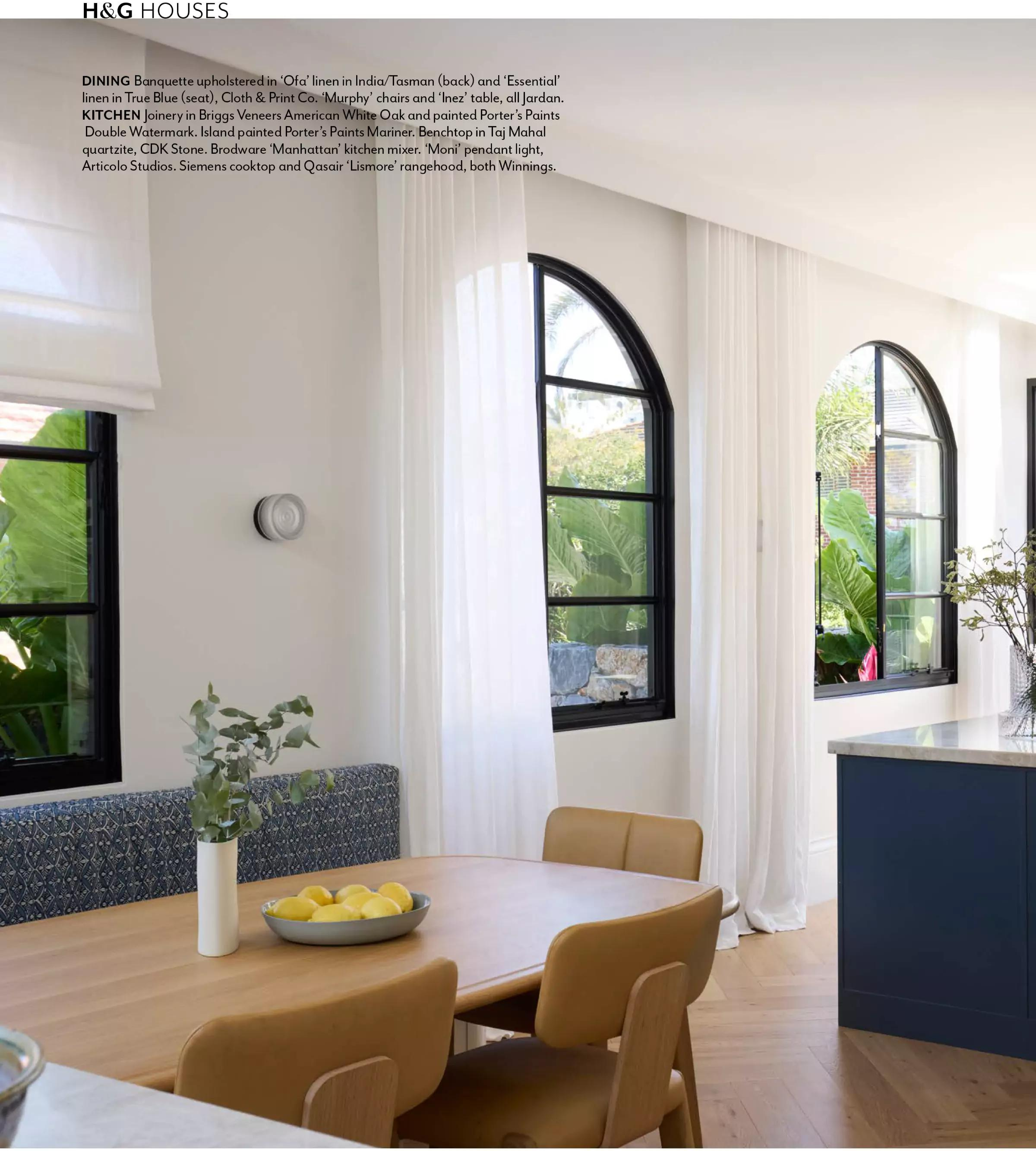


EXTERIOR The circa 1940s semi retains its original facade, softened by tropical plantings that allude to the proximity to the beach. Weatherboards painted Porter's Paints Popcorn. **KITCHEN** 'Diiva' stools, Grazia & Co. 'Moni' triple pendant light, Articolo Studios. Vase, Great Dane. **ALFRESCO** 'Nomah' outdoor sofas, Eco Outdoor.

PETITE *delight*

A compact semi in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is transformed into a spacious, light-filled family retreat full of bespoke touches.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



DINING Banquette upholstered in 'Ofa' linen in India/Tasman (back) and 'Essential' linen in True Blue (seat), Cloth & Print Co. 'Murphy' chairs and 'Inez' table, all Jardan. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Briggs Veneers American White Oak and painted Porter's Paints Double Watermark. Island painted Porter's Paints Mariner. Benchtop in Taj Mahal quartzite, CDK Stone. Brodware 'Manhattan' kitchen mixer. 'Moni' pendant light, Articolo Studios. Siemens cooktop and Qasair 'Lismore' rangehood, both Winnings.

Life is sweet for this family of five who are loving their newly rebuilt semi in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. The circa 1940s house exudes contemporary style and, for a compact footprint is surprisingly spacious, light and open with an easy indoor-outdoor flow. Multiple living and play areas as well as a swag of bedrooms and bathrooms offer everyone their own 'getaway', auguring well for the future as the kids grow into teenagers.

One of a row of six semis, the enviable corner position attracted owners Ben and Hannah when they were looking to buy a home in 2019. "There's so much more you can do with a renovation of a semi when it's on a corner," says Hannah. As a bonus the home is bathed in sunlight all day, is walking distance to the beach, parks, restaurants, cafes and schools, and is in a neighbourhood filled with young families.

Referred by another client to work on the project, interior designer Leah Henricks said when she met the owners "it immediately felt like a great fit". Ben and Hannah already had a clear idea of what they wished to achieve in creating a home for themselves, two young daughters and, just recently, a newborn son. "They wanted a beautiful, family-friendly design with quality finishes and fixtures and warm, liveable features such as bookshelves, cosy bench seating and soft window furnishings," says Leah. Maximising space on the tight 163-sqm block was also a priority.

Leah tweaked the floorplan that was drafted by Elizabeth Soliman from Prime Design Studios to position the kitchen on the other side of the home, allowing for large arched windows and a better connection between indoors and out.

▶

The two-storey home now boasts four bedrooms, three bathrooms and several living areas – a far cry from the single-level, two-bedroom, one-bathroom semi the family purchased.

Only the facade of the home was preserved in accordance with council requirements. Stretching out along the length of the block there are now three levels of living space including a basement with a gym, laundry, rumpus room, wine cellar and play area complete with a slippery slide.

While the home was being built, the family were able to live in the semi next door, which was most fortuitous. Passers-by were full of praise for the new construction, including a neighbour who had been born in the front room of the house in the 1950s, all adding to the pleasant sense of community that exists in the area.

For the interiors, the couple requested a traditional style with contemporary accents. Black steel-framed doors and windows with brass hardware add a stylish note, while tumbled stonework complements the classic detailing. The couple were keen for Leah to explore the use of colour to create interest and bring character to the spaces and her selected tapestry of complementary coastal shades provides a breezy backdrop. Throughout, various gradations of Porter's Paints Watermark bring life to the interior and exterior. Says Leah, "It is a warm neutral colour that works really well internally with the light, and externally it contrasts with the Wamberal stonework walls and outdoor fireplace and the weatherboards painted in Porter's Paints Popcorn."

Elsewhere a palette of greyed blues, greens and pinks was deployed in soft washes that feel beautiful and timeless.

In the kitchen the graphic Taj Mahal quartzite benchtop is offset by the island painted in deep blue Porter's Paints Mariner, while the powder room mixes the pinky hues of Porter's Paints Himalayan Salt with a vanity in creamy Chantilly marble.

In the main bedroom, yellow ochre curtains pop against the walls painted in Porter's Paints Mist, while the girls' bedroom has a playful feel with cabana-striped wallpaper and bunkbeds painted in Porter's Paints Moorehen.

The house is flooded with natural light, thanks to its position but also from the skylight above the central stairwell and large windows. A mature pear tree provides privacy from the street and also some shade during the summer months.

"The house has so many stunning features," says Hannah. I never get tired of looking at the arched windows, the stone fireplaces and boxed gardens, the dining banquette, the tiled splashback in the kitchen and the kids' cosy rooms.

"We love having so much space. We didn't realise how space can change your everyday life and mindset," she continues. "The outdoor area is amazing too – having an outlook and a fresh breeze makes us feel as if we are on the deck of a coastal hotel every day."

▶

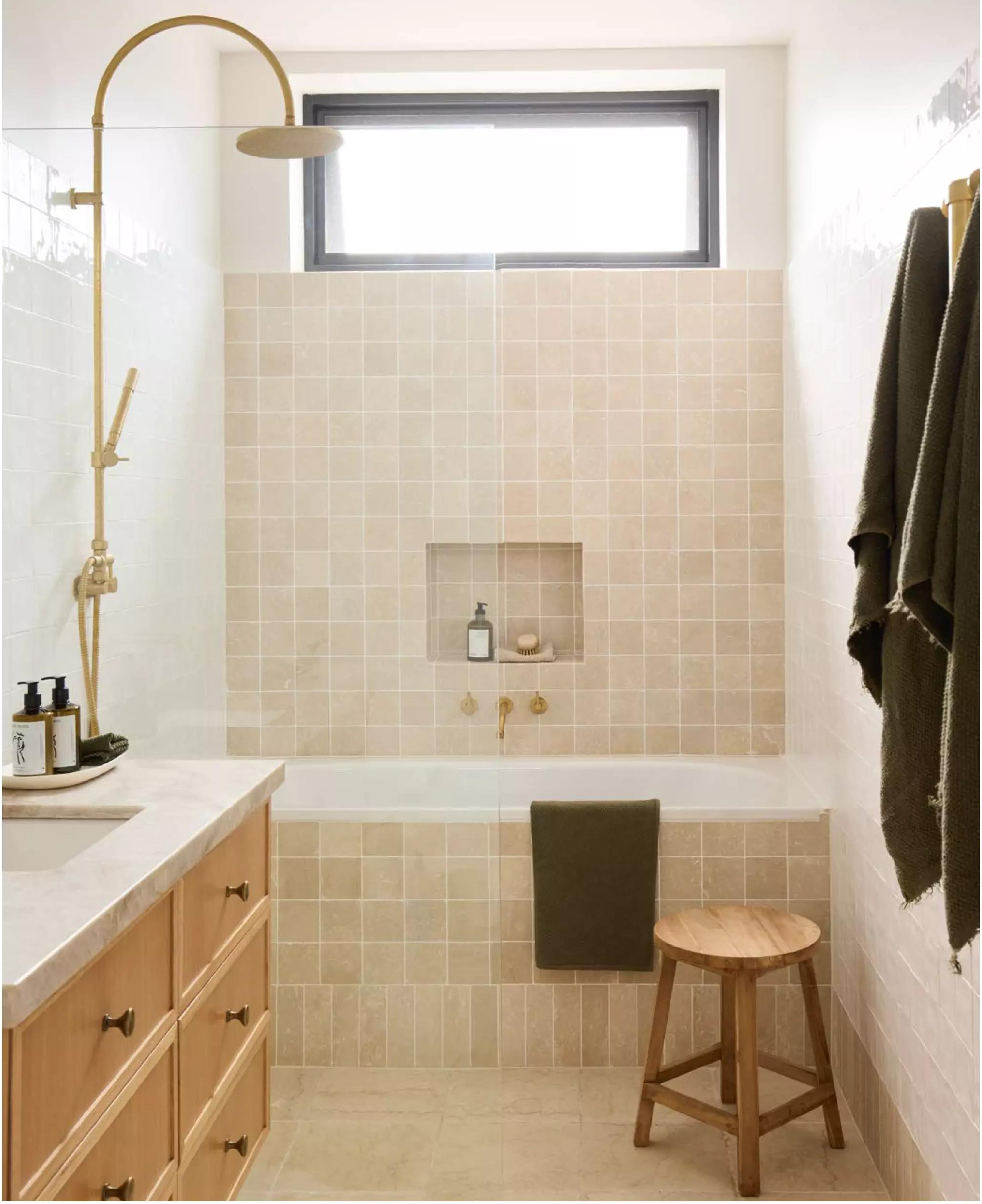
Leah Henricks Interiors: *leahhenricksinteriors.com.*
Naycon Building Solutions: *naycon.com.au.*
Prime Design Studios: *primedesignstudios.com.au.*

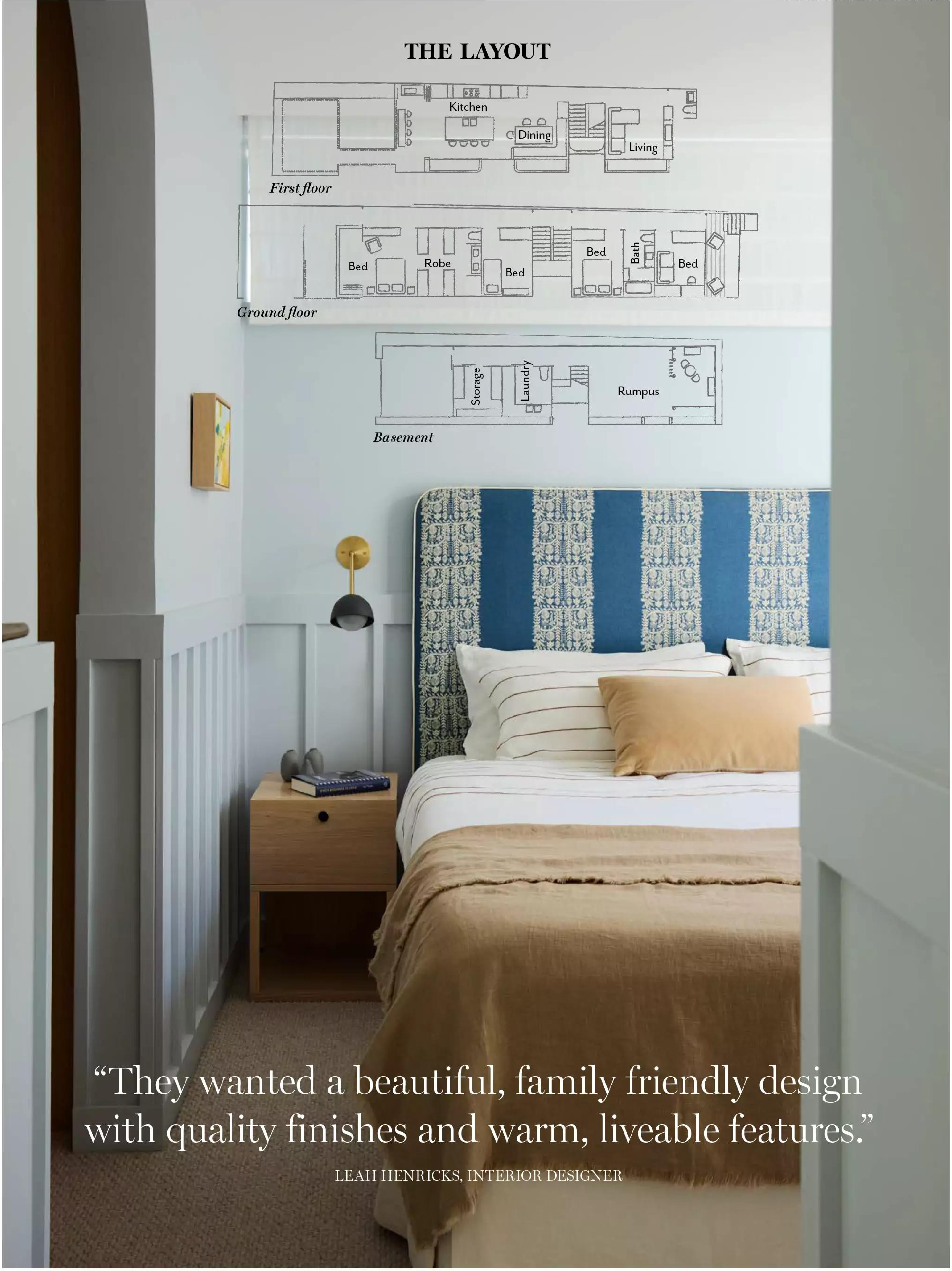
DINING Banquette upholstered in 'Essential' linen in True Blue (seat), and 'Ofa' linen in India/Tasman (back), Cloth & Print Co. 'Murphy' dining chairs and 'Inez' table, all Jardan. **LIVING** 'Shona' modular sofa, Molmic. Cushions, Walter G. 'Molly' coffee table, Jardan. Curtain, Cloth & Print Co, HomeLife Furnishings. Steel windows, Zen. Pendant light, Anna Charlesworth. *Checkpoint* artwork by Korynn Morrison, Curatorial+Co. Picture light, Elstead Lighting. DF990 gas fireplace, Escea. Engineered oak floorboards, Royal Oak Floors.

THIS IS THE LIFE

"When we come home everyone has the freedom to settle in their own area," says Hannah. "We can keep an eye on the kids while we're in the gym or kitchen and everyone can hear each other, thanks to the central stairwell." With fun inclusions such as a slippery slide in the playroom, the family can spend a day at home "and still feel as though the kids have used up all their energy".

MAIN BATHROOM Wall tiles in Gloss White, trim and floor in Renaissance Botticino stone, all Surface Gallery. Kaldewei bathtub, Puro basin, both Candana. 'Yokato' wall mixer, shower set and robe hook, Brodware. Vanity in Briggs Veneers American White Oak. Benchtop in Taj Mahal quartzite, CDK Stone. **MAIN BEDROOM** Bedhead in 'Balinese' fabric in Denim, McLaurin & Piercy. Bed linen, Cultiver. 'Orla' bedside table, Grazia & Co. 'Terra O' long articulating light, Marz Designs. Artwork, Curatorial+Co. 'Alpine Retreat' carpet in Falls Creek, Carpet Court.





THE LAYOUT

Kitchen
Dining
Living
First floor
Bed
Robe
Bed
Bed
Bath
Bed
Ground floor
Storage
Laundry
Rumpus
Basement

> “They wanted a beautiful, family friendly design with quality finishes and warm, liveable features.”
>
> LEAH HENRICKS, INTERIOR DESIGNER

THE PALETTE

Porter's Paints Watermark (interior walls)

Porter's Paints Mariner (island joinery)

Porter's Paints Himalayan Salt (powder room)

MAIN BEDROOM Bedhead in 'Balinese' fabric in Denim, McLaurin & Piercy. Bed linen, Cultiver. Wall light, Marz Designs. Curtains in 'Rolling Stone', Les Créations de la Maison. *Earth's Web* artwork by Amanda Schunker, Curatorial+Co. **ENSUITE** 'Casa' tiles in Pearl Grey, Onsite. Trim and floor tiles in Renaissance Botticino stone, Surface Gallery. Vanity in Briggs Veneers American White Oak. Benchtop in Taj Mahal quartzite, CDK Stone. **MUDROOM** Wall in James Hardie V-groove cladding behind benchseat, painted Porter's Paints Moorehen. Benchseat in 'Batik Rattan' fabric, Walter G.

1

THE SOURCE

Timber tones and textural elements invite warmth into interiors and create an inviting ambiance.

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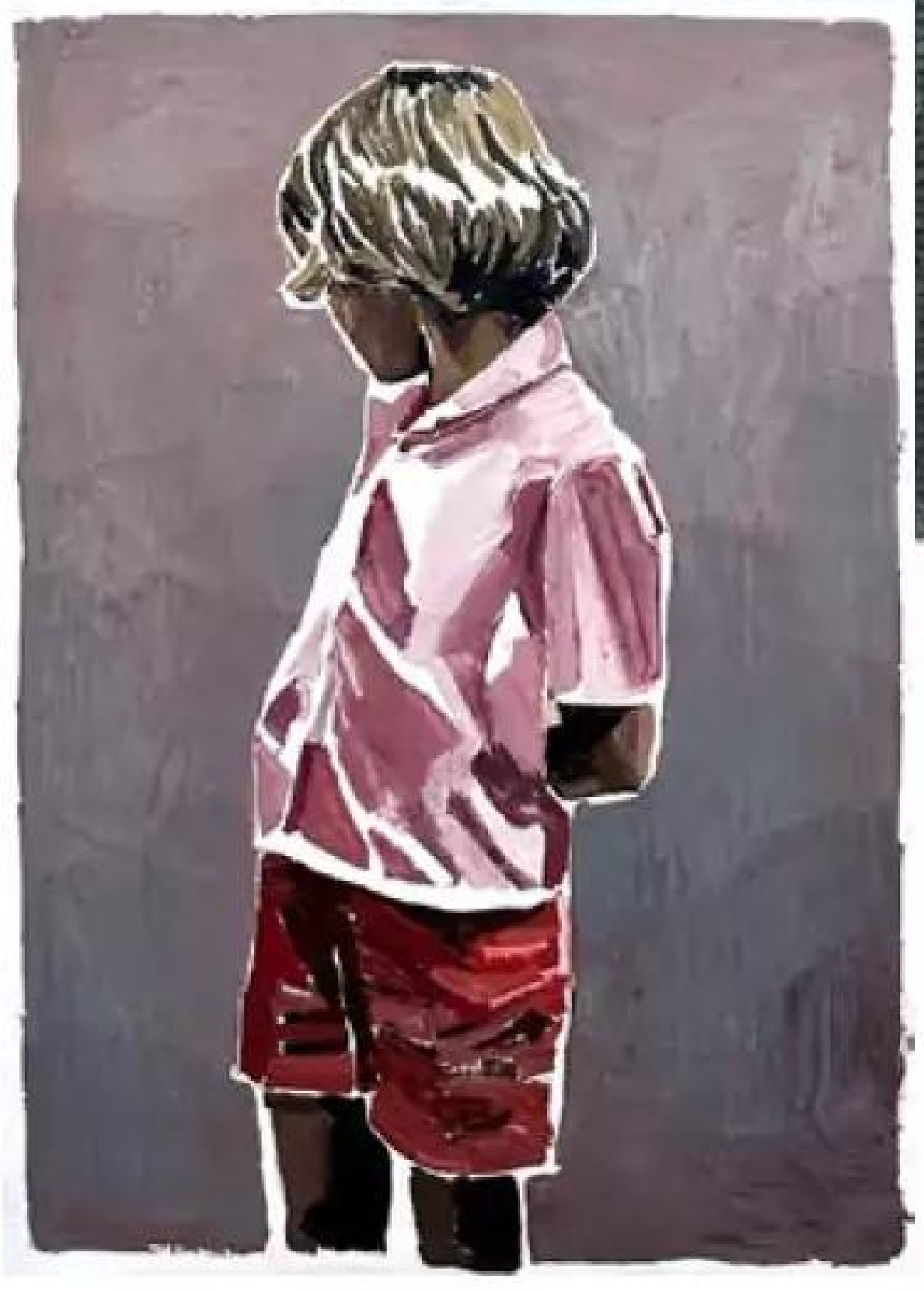

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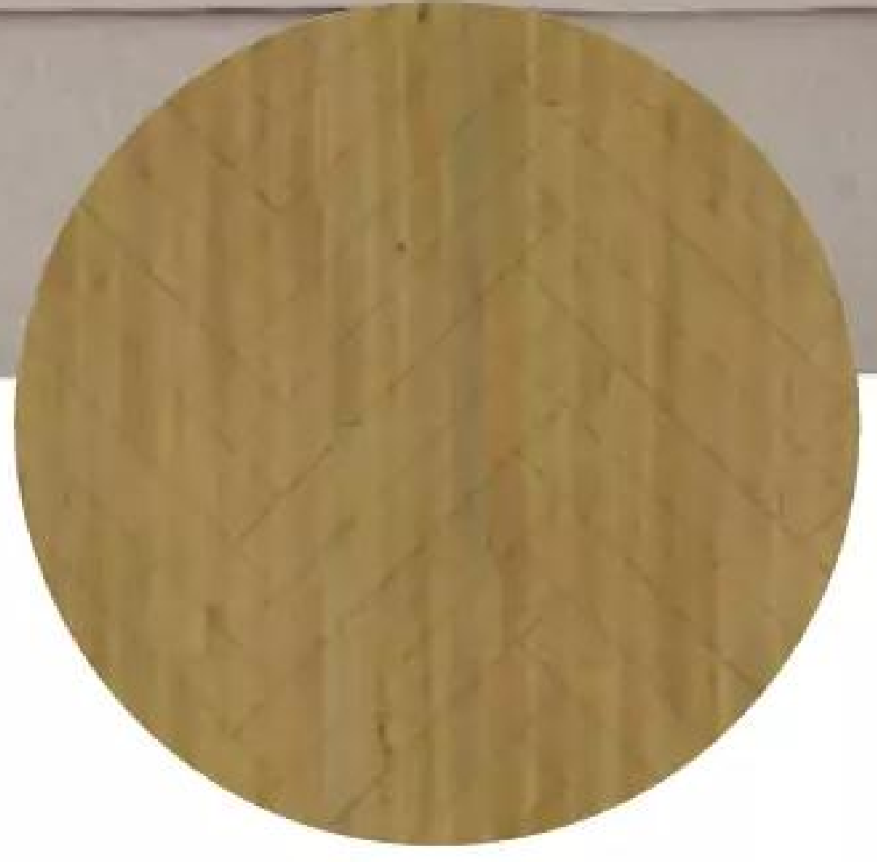


10

1 ‘Moni’ **pendant light**, POA, Articolo Studios. **2** ‘Rye’ **dining chair** in Walnut and Bud/Greyson leather, $1406, Jardan. **3** ‘Malawi’ **rug** in Denim (240x170cm), $3800, Armadillo. **4** Stoneware **stemmed bowl** by Katarina Wells, $1100, Curatorial+Co. **5** ‘Mira’ velvet **cushion** in Toffee, $39.95, Myer. **6** ‘Elysian’ **pot filler** in Brushed Brass, $364, ABI Interiors. **7** ‘Sloane’ raffia **bag**, $189, 2ndSkin. **8** *Girl Turned Away 1* **artwork** by Clara Adolphs (114x73cm), POA, Chalk Horse. **9** ‘Evie’ three-seater **sofa** in Lak Beige, $2999, OZ Design. **10** ‘Alpacca’ herringbone **flooring**, POA, Tongue & Groove. **H&G**

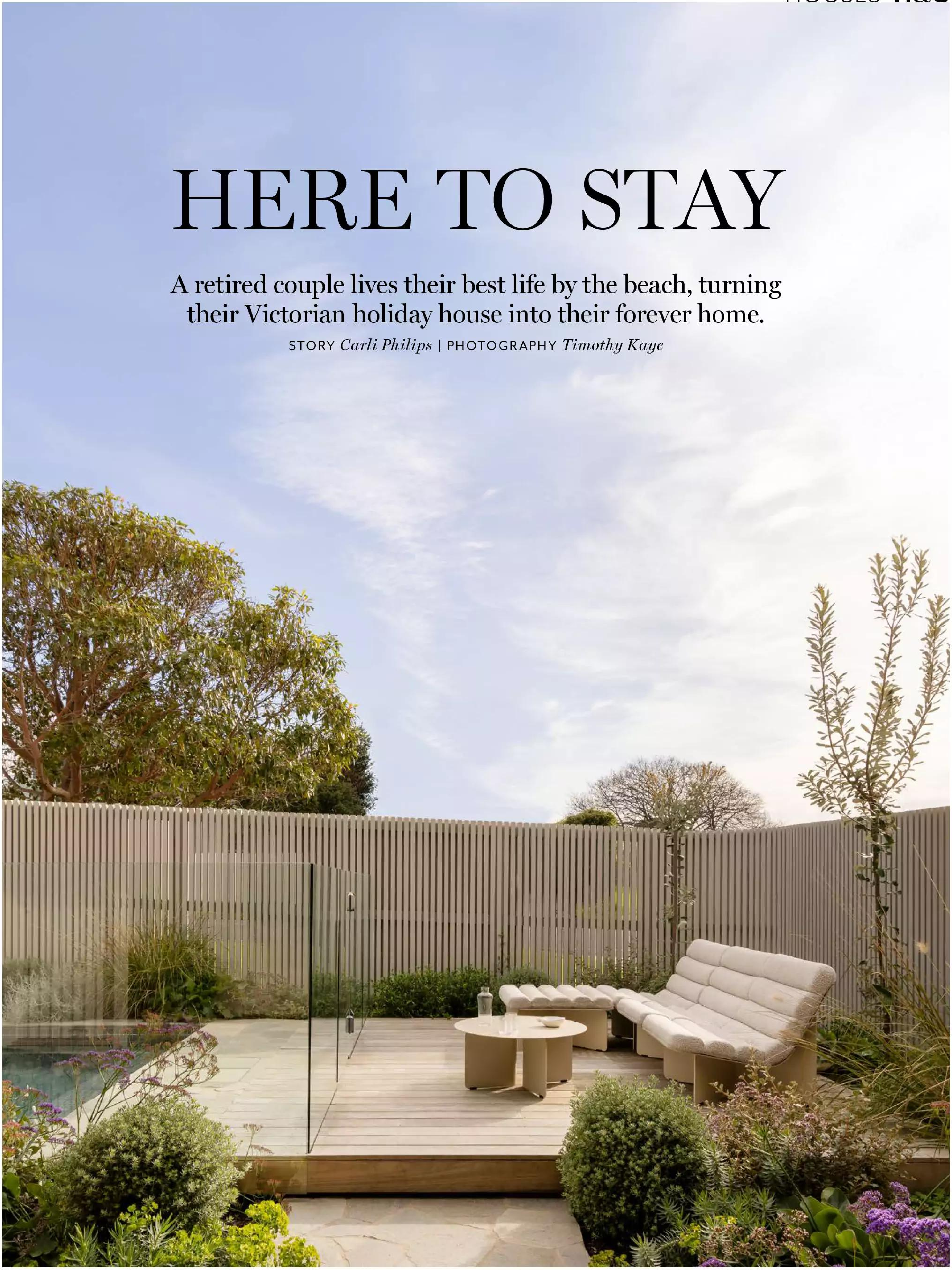
Produced by Bethan Lacoba and Marissa Foye. Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

EXTERIOR Facade and fence painted Dulux Stone River. Windows powdercoated Dulux Black Ace. **POOL DECK** Landscaping by Luma Landscapes softens the contemporary scheme of the exterior with shrubs in a variety of textures and colour tones, surrounding the deck where a Tait 'Voom' lounger, ottoman and coffee table offer a comfortable zone to relax. 'Endicott' crazy paving, Eco Outdoors. 'Piscina' pool tiles in Nube Grigio, Perini.

HERE TO STAY

A retired couple lives their best life by the beach, turning their Victorian holiday house into their forever home.

STORY *Carli Philips* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Timothy Kaye*

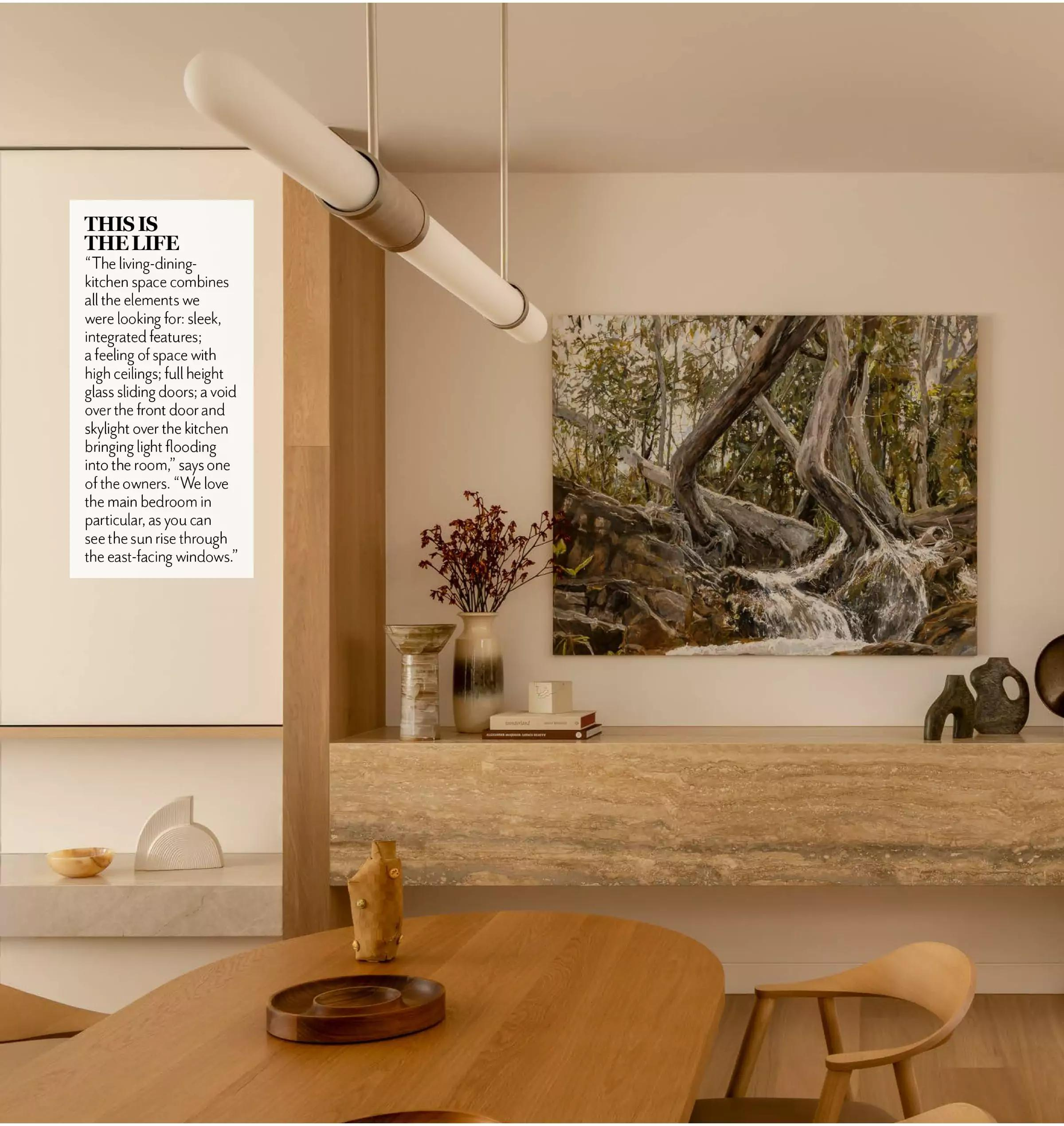


While few good things came from the Covid pandemic, 'the bubble' boundaries proved to be a blessing for architect Ben Robertson of Tecture and the homeowners, a retired couple with a farming history looking to build on their site just two blocks from the beach in Victoria. "They had seen another home I'd designed for their friends so got in touch," says Ben. "I happened to be living out of Melbourne, which was within the bubble of Ballarat (near) where they lived."

Their family had been holidaying in the area for years before buying their holiday home in 2000. On a 275 sqm block, it was small but had big pros: proximity to the beach, cafes, restaurants and shops, and it was less than an hour and a half from their home at the time. "It served us well as a holiday home but when we started thinking about a permanent move there in about 2017, we knew the existing house wouldn't suit. It wasn't designed well enough and the rooms were too small for us."

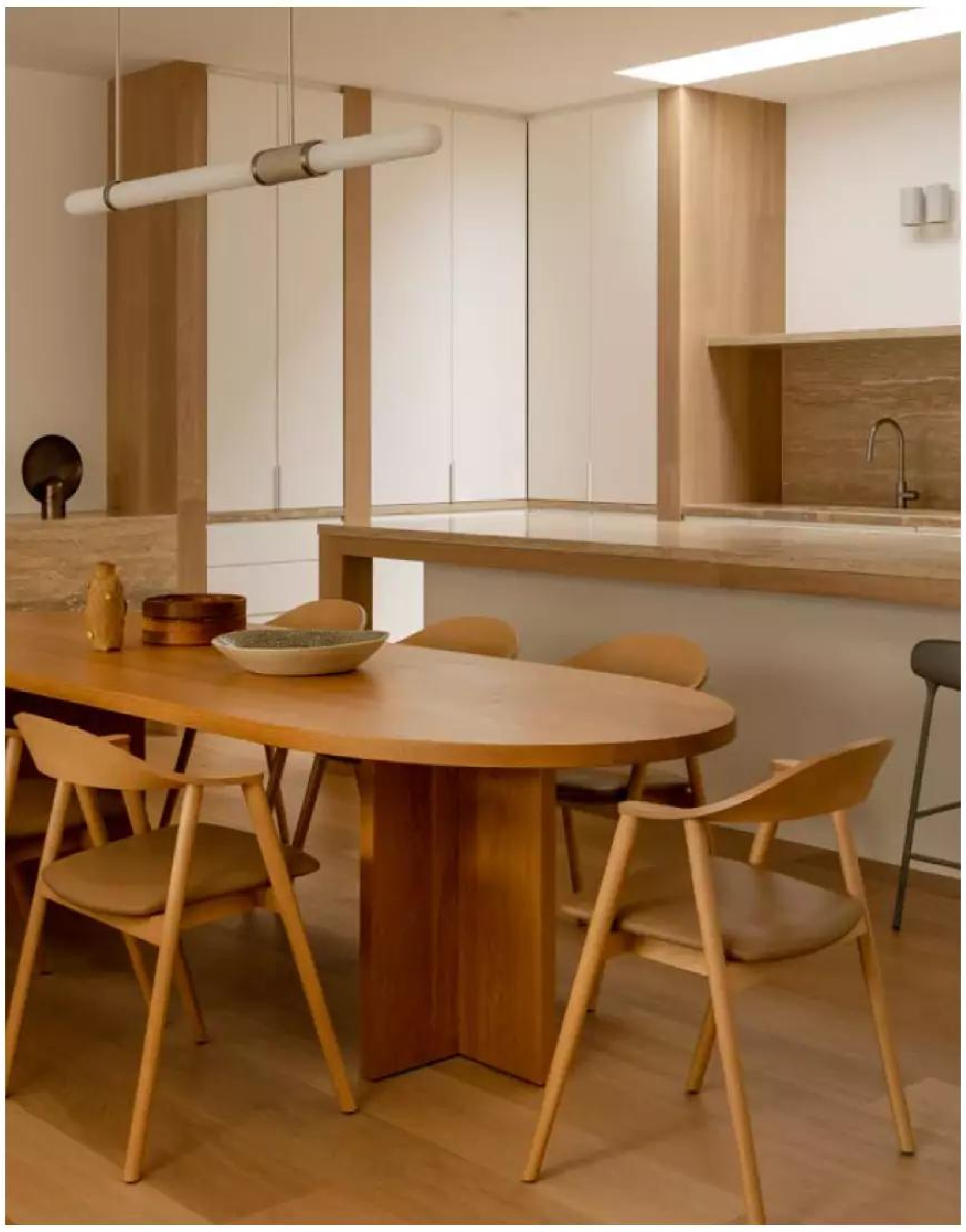
They toyed with the idea of selling then buying nearby, but weren't optimistic about finding another house in ▶

LIVING Joinery in Dulux Vivid White™, SCLK. Curtains, That Special Look. Fireplace in GB Smooth bricks in Nickel, Brickworks. Bench in Crema limestone, Signorino. Stonemason, Natural Stone Geelong. Mattiazzi side table, and Nonn coffee table and side table, all District. 'Hygge' chair, Origine. Kett 'Erskine' sofa, Cosh Living. Artwork by Marshall Williams. Pot on bench, Artek. Cups, Hay. Clay sculpture by Stephanie Phillips, and vessel on coffee table by Iggy & Lou Lou, both Pépite. Rug, Armadillo. Oak floors in Ground, Made by Storey.



THIS IS THE LIFE

"The living-dining-kitchen space combines all the elements we were looking for: sleek, integrated features; a feeling of space with high ceilings; full height glass sliding doors; a void over the front door and skylight over the kitchen bringing light flooding into the room," says one of the owners. "We love the main bedroom in particular, as you can see the sun rise through the east-facing windows."

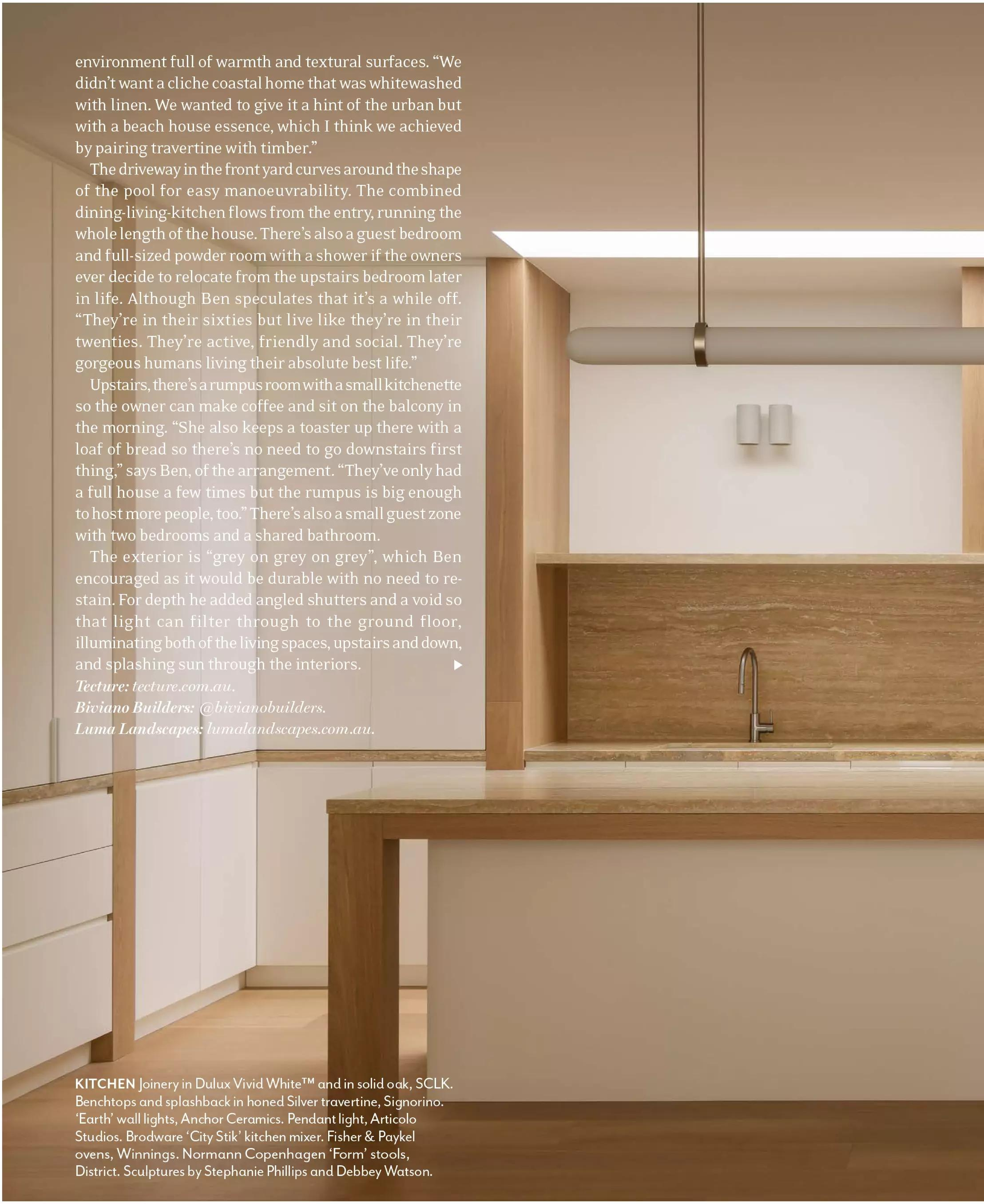


"So redeveloping the block was more attractive, especially if we could achieve a home that met our needs despite the sizing constraints of the site," they say.

The property size and planning guidelines coupled with the brief was overwhelming, but Ben was determined. He also had the future of the couple top of mind, designing with the knowledge that their family unit would continue to expand as grandchildren came along. "We had to give it 'Big House Energy' but with an apartment-style design philosophy," he says. "We managed to get four bedrooms, a double car garage, two living spaces and three bathrooms on a site that's pretty tight, so it's quite an achievement... the spatial planning and material choices provide a sense of interior scale to that of a much larger dwelling."

This was helped along by tone and texture so that the interiors didn't feel cluttered or cramped. The brief was for something "contemporary, streamlined and minimalist without being sterile" that would have a better connection to the outdoors. Prioritising the use of travertine and oak as the key materials, Ben developed a refined ▶

DINING Joinery painted Dulux Vivid White™ and in solid oak, SCLK. Bench in honed Silver travertine, Signorino. Pendant light, Articolo Studios. *Green Ant Creek* artwork by Liz Sullivan. Simon James 'Fragment' table, District. Kett 'Karm' dining chairs, Cosh Living. Surface sconce, Studio Henry Wilson. Sculptural pieces by Laura Veleff, Anna Gleeson and Debbey Watson.



environment full of warmth and textural surfaces. "We didn't want a cliche coastal home that was whitewashed with linen. We wanted to give it a hint of the urban but with a beach house essence, which I think we achieved by pairing travertine with timber."

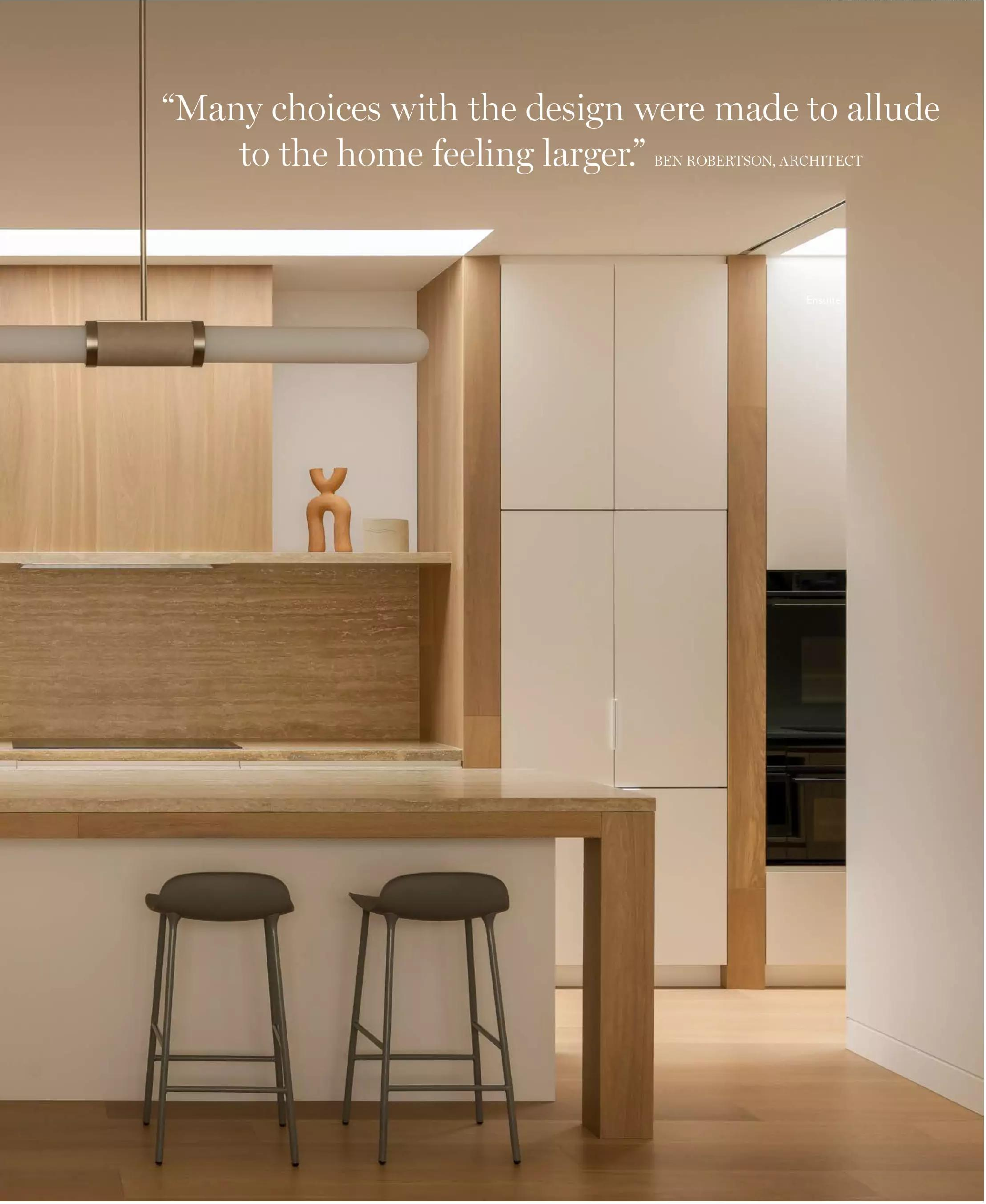
The driveway in the front yard curves around the shape of the pool for easy manoeuvrability. The combined dining-living-kitchen flows from the entry, running the whole length of the house. There's also a guest bedroom and full-sized powder room with a shower if the owners ever decide to relocate from the upstairs bedroom later in life. Although Ben speculates that it's a while off. "They're in their sixties but live like they're in their twenties. They're active, friendly and social. They're gorgeous humans living their absolute best life."

Upstairs, there's a rumpus room with a small kitchenette so the owner can make coffee and sit on the balcony in the morning. "She also keeps a toaster up there with a loaf of bread so there's no need to go downstairs first thing," says Ben, of the arrangement. "They've only had a full house a few times but the rumpus is big enough to host more people, too." There's also a small guest zone with two bedrooms and a shared bathroom.

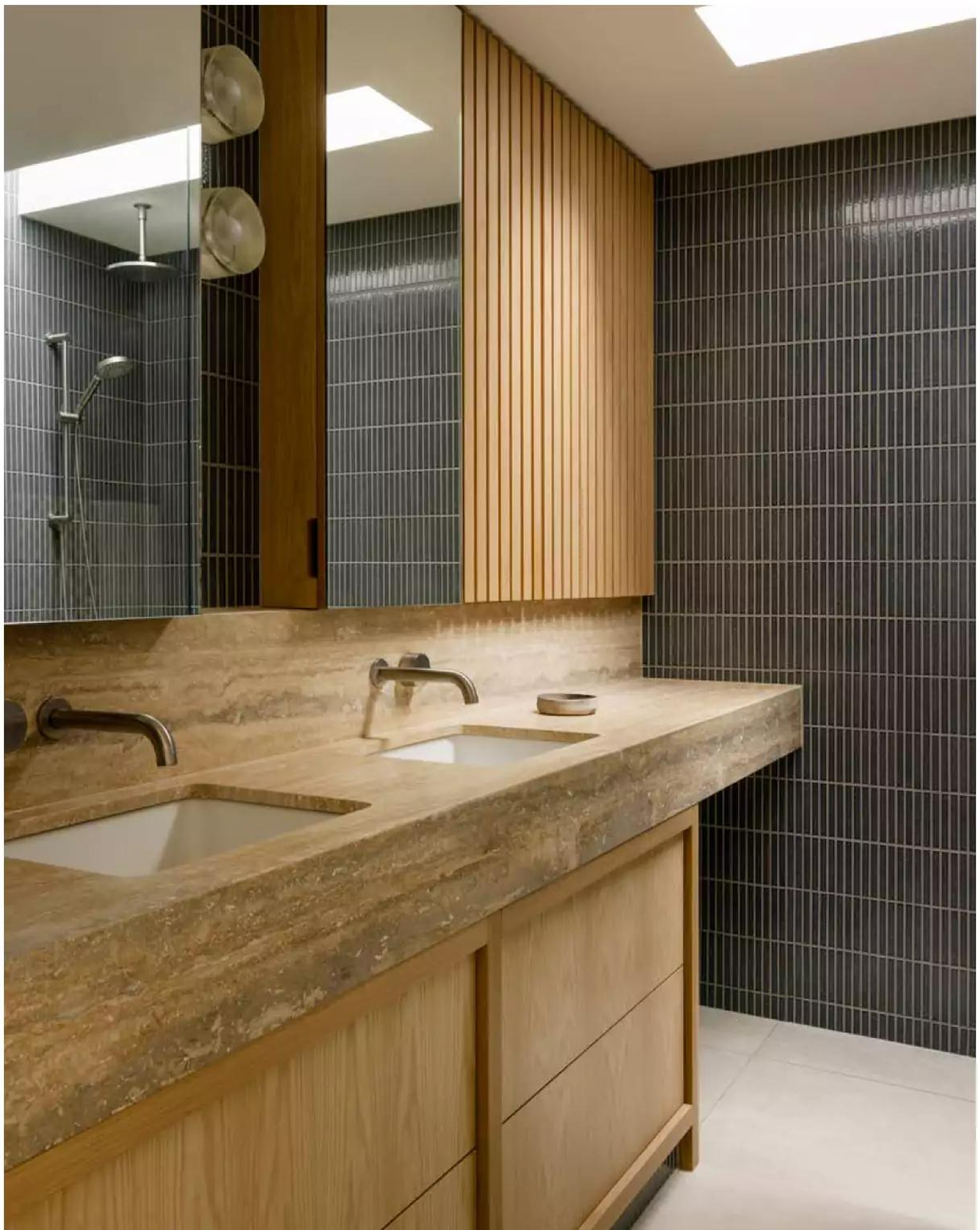
The exterior is "grey on grey on grey", which Ben encouraged as it would be durable with no need to re-stain. For depth he added angled shutters and a void so that light can filter through to the ground floor, illuminating both of the living spaces, upstairs and down, and splashing sun through the interiors. ▸

Tecture: *tecture.com.au.*
Biviano Builders: *@bivianobuilders.*
Luma Landscapes: *lumalandscapes.com.au.*

KITCHEN Joinery in Dulux Vivid White™ and in solid oak, SCLK. Benchtops and splashback in honed Silver travertine, Signorino. 'Earth' wall lights, Anchor Ceramics. Pendant light, Articolo Studios. Brodware 'City Stik' kitchen mixer. Fisher & Paykel ovens, Winnings. Normann Copenhagen 'Form' stools, District. Sculptures by Stephanie Phillips and Debbey Watson.



> "Many choices with the design were made to allude to the home feeling larger." BEN ROBERTSON, ARCHITECT



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

> “We wanted to give it a hint of the urban but with a beach house essence, by pairing travertine with timber.”
>
> BEN ROBERTSON

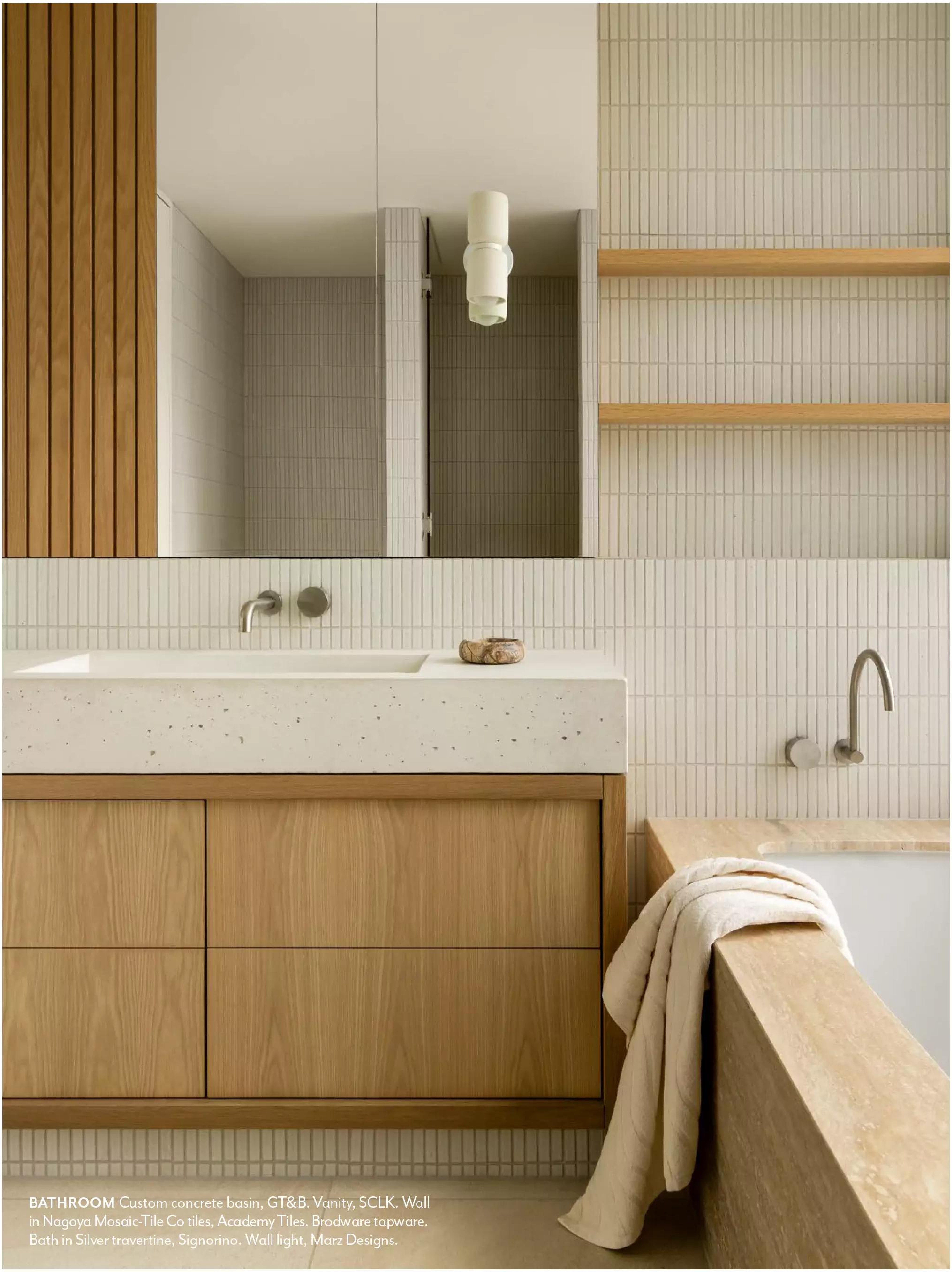
THE PALETTE

Dulux Vivid White™ (walls and joinery)

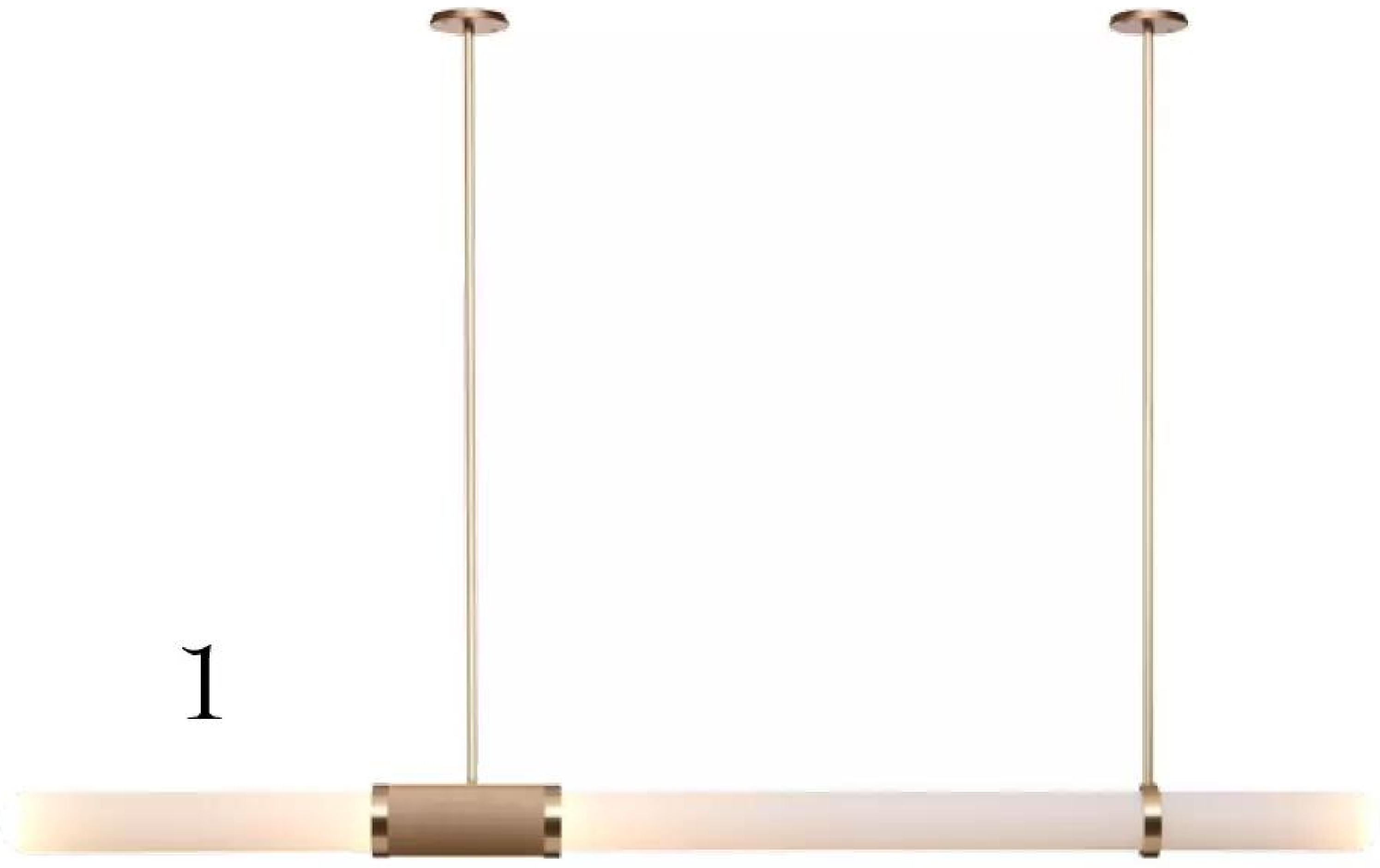
Polytec Boston Oak Woodmatt (joinery interior)

GB Smooth bricks in Nickel, Brickworks (living fireplace)

BEDROOM Bedhead in Elton Group Eveneer Prefinished veneer in Planked Oak Groove, and Mokum ‘Elba’ fabric. Northern ‘Birdy’ wall light, LightCo. Vessel by Alterfact. Bedcover, In the Sac. **LIVING** *Opposite* Artwork by Stephanie Laine. Mattiazzi side table, District. Sofa, Cosh Living. Rug, Armadillo. **ENSUITE** Vanity in Elton Group Eveneer Prefinished veneer, SCLK. Benchtop in Silver travertine, Signorino. Wall lights, Volker Haug Studio. Wall in Nagoya Mosaic-Tile Co ‘Kayoborder’ tiles in 87306, Academy Tiles. Brodware tapware, Just Bathroomware.



BATHROOM Custom concrete basin, GT&B. Vanity, SCLK. Wall in Nagoya Mosaic-Tile Co tiles, Academy Tiles. Brodware tapware. Bath in Silver travertine, Signorino. Wall light, Marz Designs.



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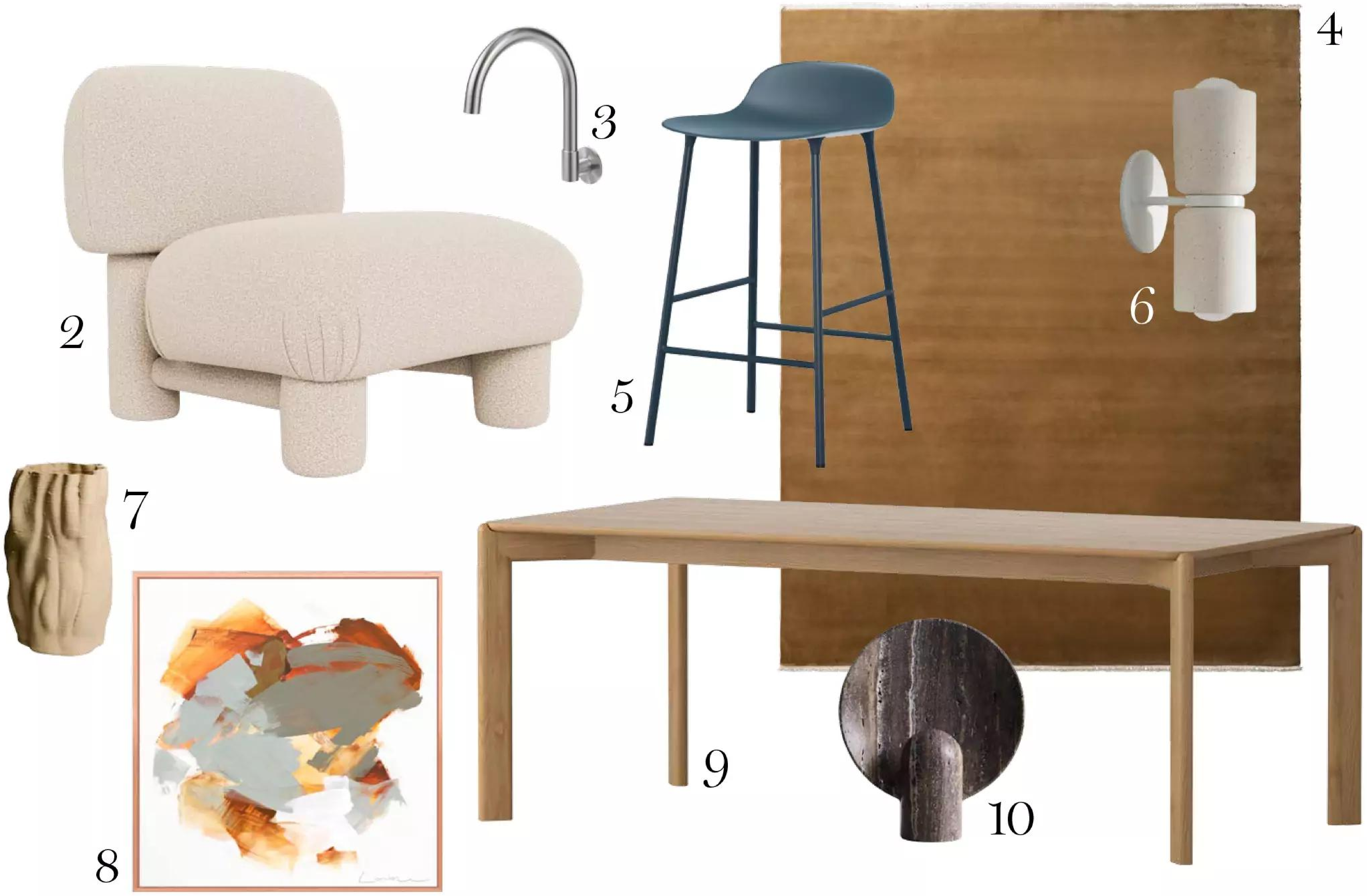

Produced by Bethan Lacoba.

1 'Scandal' **pendant light** in Snow/Brass/Brass Mesh, from $7900/long, Articolo Studios. 2 'Matcha' **armchair**, $999, Freedom. 3 Gooseneck swivel **wall-mounted spout** in Brushed Nickel, $119.90, ABI Interiors. 4 'Eden' **rug** in Citrine (240x170cm), $3100, Armadillo. 5 Normann Copenhagen 'Form' **stool** in Blue, $625, District. 6 'Terra 2' **wall light** in Vanilla Bean/White Satin, from $1059, Marz Designs. 7 Alterfact 3D-printed 'Sand Castle' **vase**, $450, Pépite. 8 *Cuore* **artwork** by Stephanie Laine, $1200, Bluethumb Art. 9 'Aries' **dining table** (200cm), $1699, Harvey Norman. 10 The 'Surface Sconce' **table lamp** in Black Travertine, $2750, Studio Henry Wilson. **H&G**

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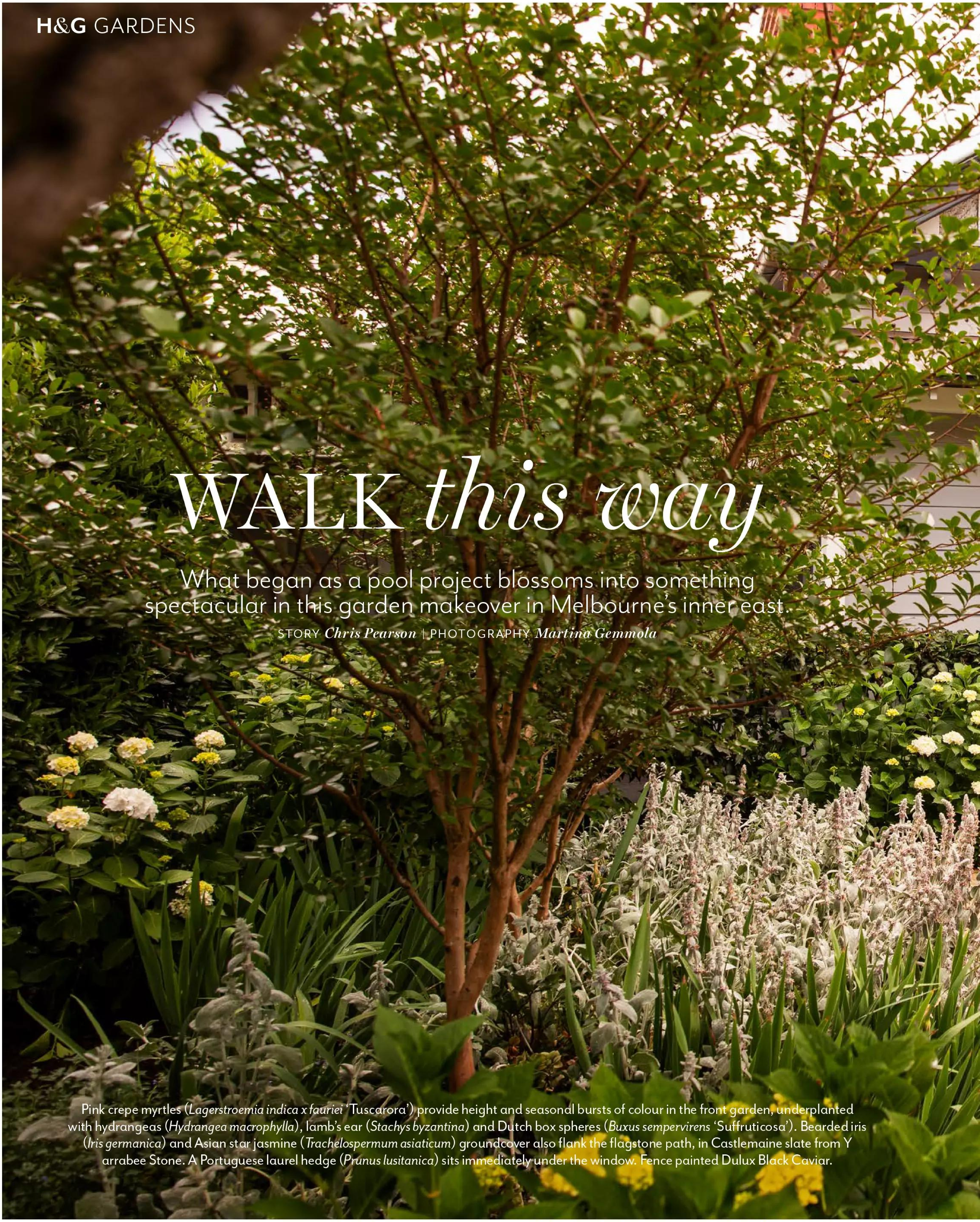
Gardens

ENCHANTING GREEN SPACES

Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) provides summer colour and a heady fragrance in this layered garden in Melbourne's inner east.



WALK *this way*

What began as a pool project blossoms into something spectacular in this garden makeover in Melbourne's inner east.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Martina Gemmola*

Pink crepe myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei* 'Tuscarora') provide height and seasonal bursts of colour in the front garden, underplanted with hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) and Dutch box spheres (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'). Bearded iris (*Iris germanica*) and Asian star jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) groundcover also flank the flagstone path, in Castlemaine slate from Yarrabee Stone. A Portuguese laurel hedge (*Prunus lusitanica*) sits immediately under the window. Fence painted Dulux Black Caviar.

A sparkling new pool prompted this magical garden makeover in Melbourne. While making a splash in the backyard was their initial aim, owners Rhiannon and Nick were so thrilled with the results that they took the plunge and asked landscape designer Inge Jabara to remodel the front garden too. Intriguingly, though, the two spaces have personalities distinctly their own.

The couple bought the property in 2010 on their return from London, drawn by the location and the unrenovated Edwardian house that "offered scope for improvement", says Rhiannon. It also had a backyard large enough for that prized pool for a growing family, which now includes two teenagers. And the garden was not without its appeal. "It was organic in its planting and arrangement, with an unstructured charm, with mature plantings, including a beautiful soft pink crepe myrtle and jacaranda at the front," she says.

After renovating the house with Bryant Alsop Architects, the couple turned their attention to the pool and the backyard. "We wanted clearly defined zones for relaxed gatherings, a trampoline for the kids, a grassy area for the dogs and, of course, the pool," says Rhiannon. But, to make that work, they quickly realised they needed a landscape designer. "I discovered Inge in *Australian House & Garden*, drawn by her use of shape, form and natural materials," she says.

Most strikingly, Inge connected the house to separate guest accommodation and a cantilevered arbour at the rear of the property with an avenue of three European hornbeams, which also create separation between the grass and the pool. This is underscored by a path of Castlemaine stone pavers interspersed with kidney weed groundcover. "The deconstructed path becomes part of the garden," says Inge. Meanwhile an existing brick wall provided a ready backdrop for the pool, underlined by a Castlemaine stone retaining wall, which echoes the front path. Inge added climbers, including jasmine and a grapevine, to the home's renovated back deck and the arbour.

Clearly captivated by the results, the couple expanded the brief to include the front garden. "In contrast to the modern rear, we envisioned a defined formal structure, complementing the classic Edwardian home, yet with a relaxed, welcoming feel," says Rhiannon. But first its most obvious failing had to be addressed. "The entry path was on the far right-hand side beside the fence, with the expanse of garden left unexplored," says Inge. "I like to take people on a journey, to quote Jane Austen, 'to take a turn about the garden'." So she moved the gate and pathway to the middle, so it now forms a dog-leg.

"That simple change has made such a difference," says Rhiannon. "The stone path gives it both a traditional and a modern look." For the plantings, Inge retained the soft pink crepe myrtle and the jacaranda, both lost in the previous rather random iteration. "I try to keep as much of the established garden as possible to ensure instant maturity," she says. Rhiannon specified "hydrangeas and box hedging for a classic look to suit the Edwardian bungalow, dense and lush to create seclusion, a country garden in the city."

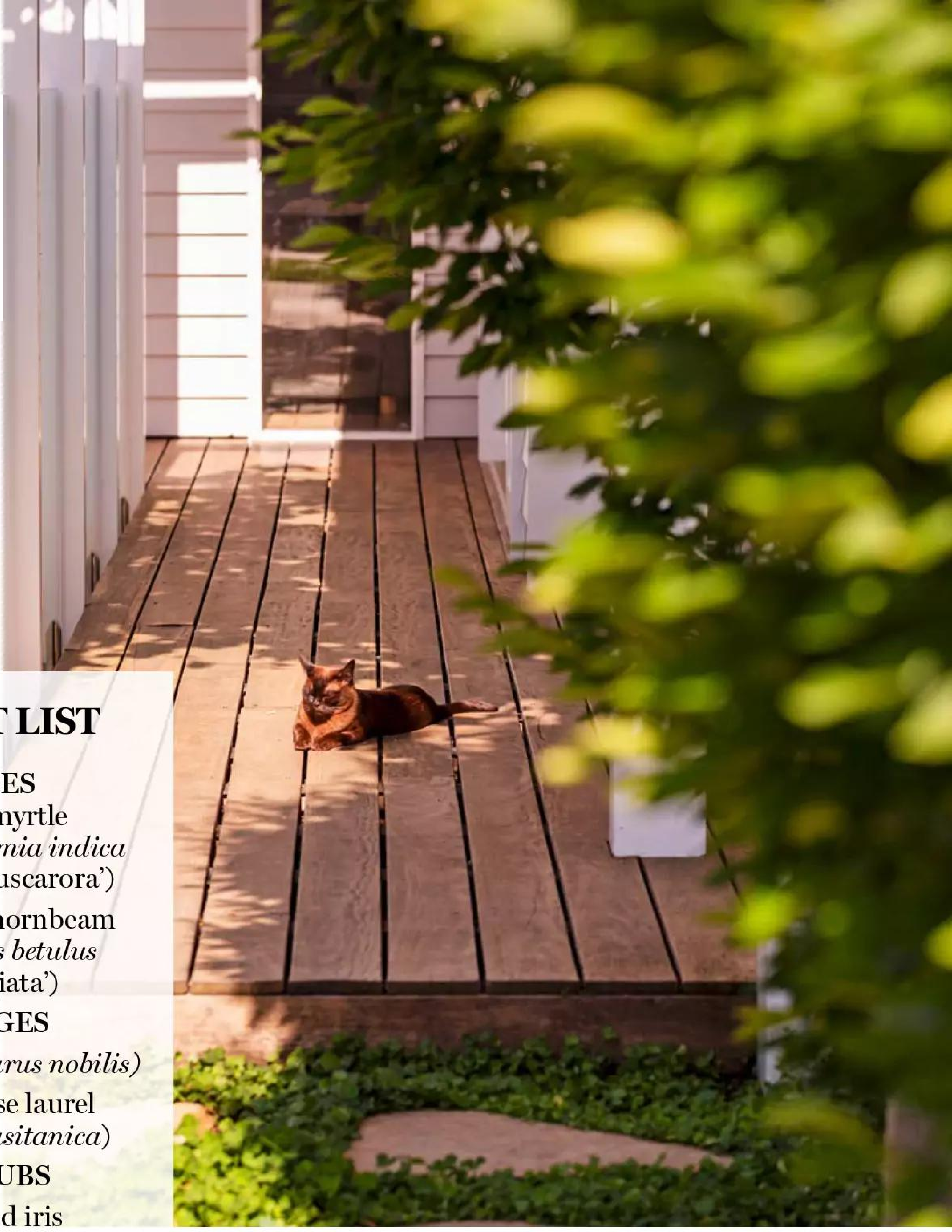
> "I TRY TO KEEP AS MUCH OF THE ESTABLISHED GARDEN AS POSSIBLE."
>
> *Inge Jabara, landscape designer*

Three vibrant hot pink crepe myrtles complement the existing trees. "Passers-by often comment on and enjoy them when they're in full bloom," says Rhiannon. "But I also love the sculptural branches and bark in winter when they are leafless. And the billowing hydrangeas, when in bloom, provide endless flowers." Meanwhile, the hornbeams in the rear are also standouts for her. "Resembling lollipops, they draw your gaze from the house, giving the impression of outdoor rooms within the garden."

Whatever the weather and the season, the new garden has become a focus for the entire family. "It has evolved into our personal retreat," she says. "I am drawn to the back undercover seating area, a relaxed and comfortable space for quiet afternoons spent reading or enjoying the company of friends and family. The garden is lovely for simply sitting and looking. No matter the season, there's always something to appreciate."

Meanwhile, the pool that started it all has become a surprising source of pleasure. "Even in winter, it looks inviting and provides a calming backdrop," says Rhiannon. "Although we said we were installing it for the kids, it has become one of our favourite features – we possibly love it even more than they do!" ▶
Inge Jabara Landscapes: *ingejabaralandscapes.com.au.*

OPPOSITE *Clockwise from top left* Gardenia Professor Pucci (*Gardenia augusta* 'Professor Pucci') emerging into bloom. A chocolate Burmese Minx sprawls in the sun on the hardwood deck. Kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*) separates the pavers, while one of the three hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata') flanks the arbour. Lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) in the front garden. Crimson glory vine (*Vitis coignetiae*) cascades over the arbour. 'Maui' armchairs, GlobeWest. 'Mimosa' outdoor setting, Bunnings. The hardwood deck was part of the house renovation.



PLANT LIST

TREES

Crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei* 'Tuscarora')

European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata')

HEDGES

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*)

Portuguese laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*)

SHRUBS

Bearded iris (*Iris germanica*)

Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*)

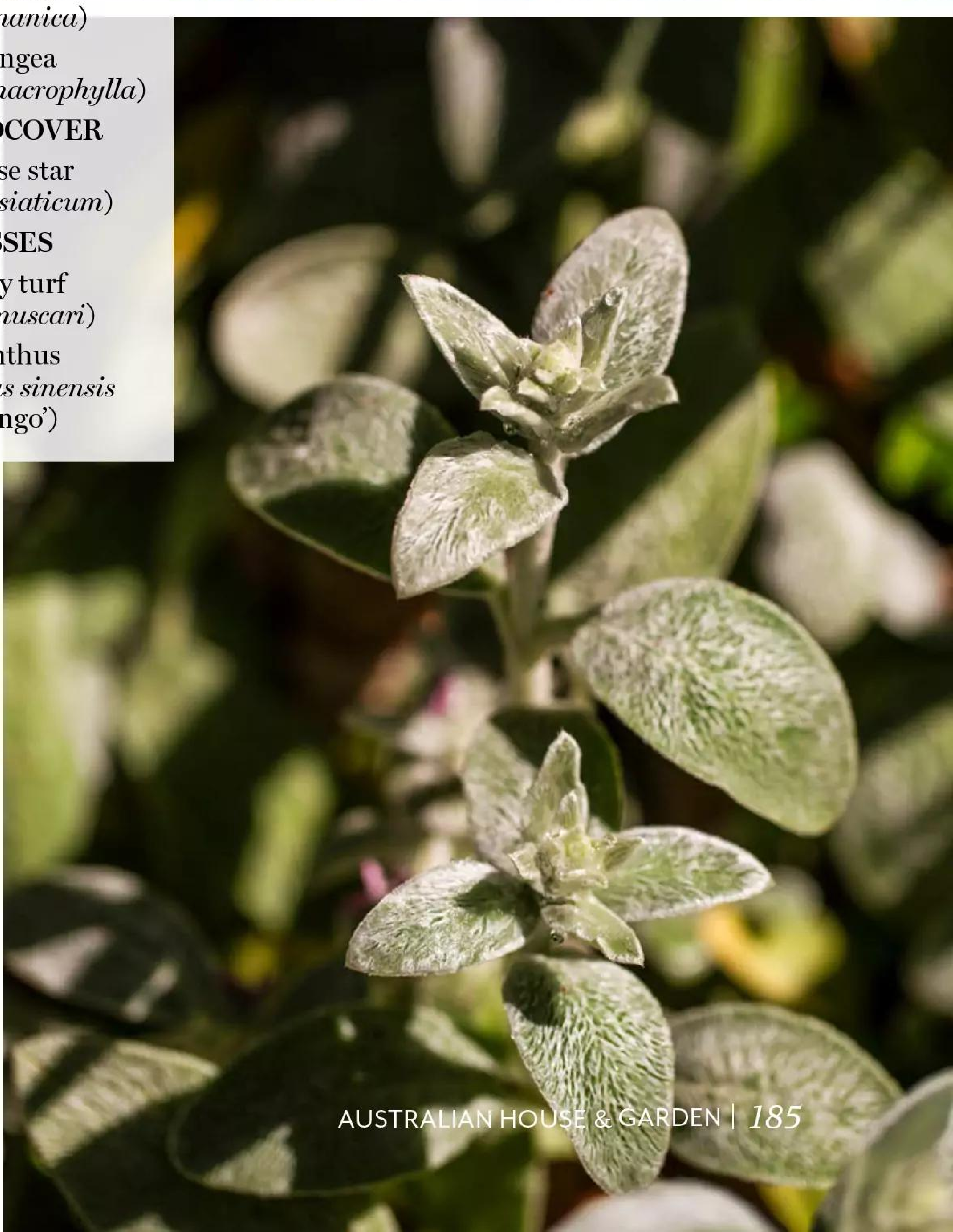
GROUNDCOVER

Japanese star (*Jasmine asiaticum*)

GRASSES

Blue lily turf (*Liriope muscari*)

Miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Flamingo')



"I LIKE TO TAKE PEOPLE ON
A JOURNEY, TO QUOTE
JANE AUSTEN, 'TO TAKE A TURN
ABOUT THE GARDEN'." *Inge Jabara*

The house renovation by Bryant Alsop Architects included an extension into the yard, complete with an arbour that provides an enticing indoor-outdoor space. Weatherboards painted Dulux Dieskau, trims Dulux Natural White™ and eaves Dulux Colorbond® Monument. European hornbeams (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata') separate the pool from the lawn. Crimson glory vine (*Vitis coignetiae*) cascades over the arbour, while star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) and a cumquat (*Citrus japonica*) sit directly beside the fence. Catmint (*Nepeta faassenii* 'Walkers Low') sits in the bed beside the hardwood deck, while kidney weed (*Dichondra repens*) flows between the pavers. 'Maui' armchairs, GlobeWest. 'Mimosa' outdoor sofas, Bunnings. 'CMC330' pool tiles in Atlantic Blue, The Pool Tile Company.

Crimson glory vine (*Vitis coignetiae*) weaves around the arbour, providing a canopy for the outdoor entertaining space at Rhiannon and Nick's Melbourne home. Garden design by Inge Jabara Landscapes. 'Maui' armchairs, GlobeWest.

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1 'Maui' one-seater **sofa** in Shadow Grey/Black, $2610, GlobeWest. **2** Haws galvanised **pot waterer**, $109, Curly Tree. **3** Rigon Headwear 'Darby' **fedora** in Dark Khaki, $76, Botanex. **4** 'Arno' **pot** in Forest Green, from $45, Adairs. **5** Burgon& Ball RHS 'Ergo' **deadheader**, $29, Backyard Botanist. **6** 'Cali Cross' **dining table** in Natural Teak/White, $3385, GlobeWest. **7** Esschert Design stainless steel **compost scoop**, $63, Botanex. **8** Architectural Digest 'Harvest' indoor/outdoor **rug** (275x185cm), $949, Ruggable. **9** Lumira Botanica by Australian Botanic Gardens **scented candle**, $80, David Jones. **10** 'Ataman' **outdoor sofa**, $1999, Freedom. **H&G**

Produced by Bethan Lacoba. Photograph (opposite) by Martina Gemmola.

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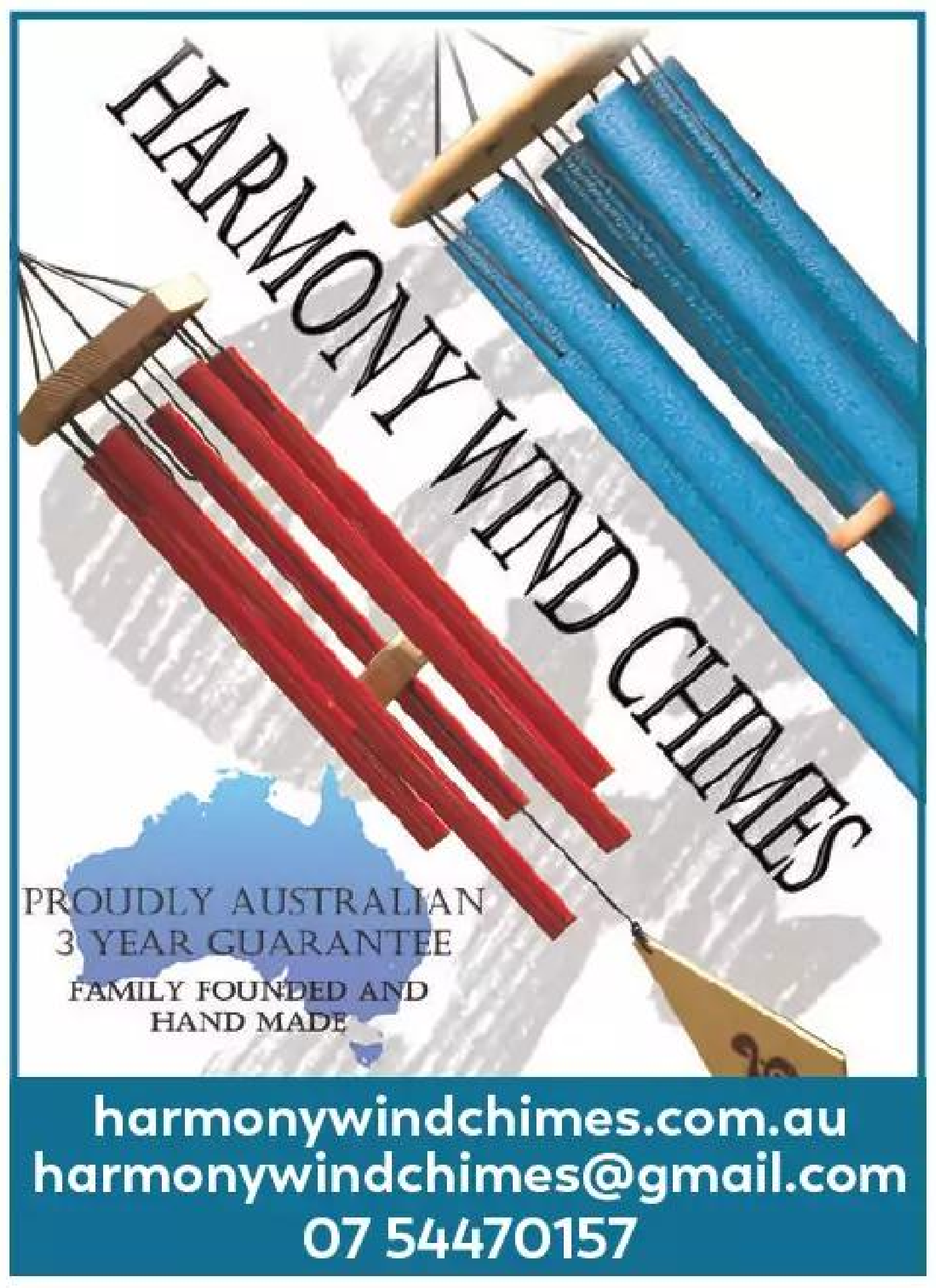
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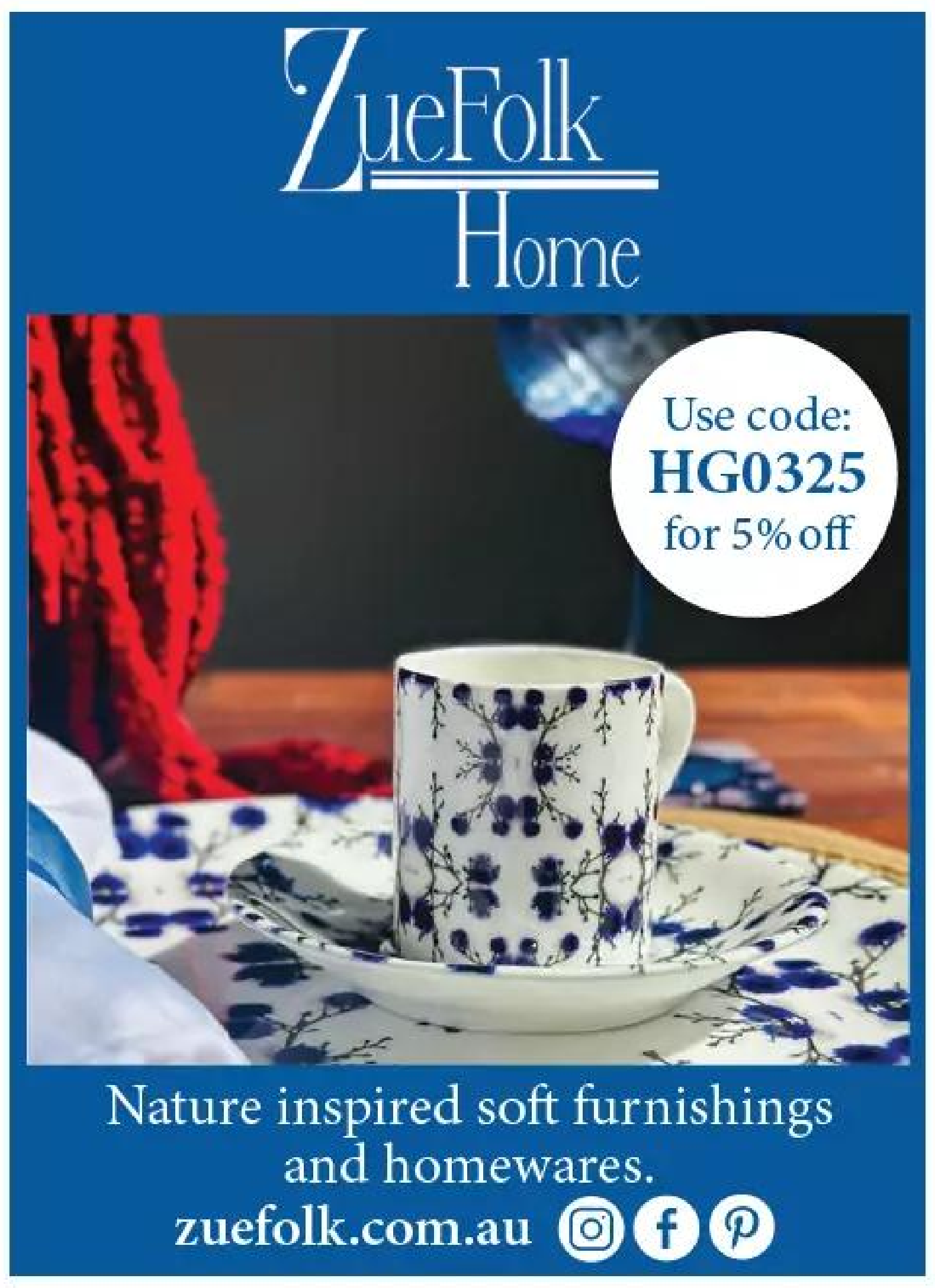
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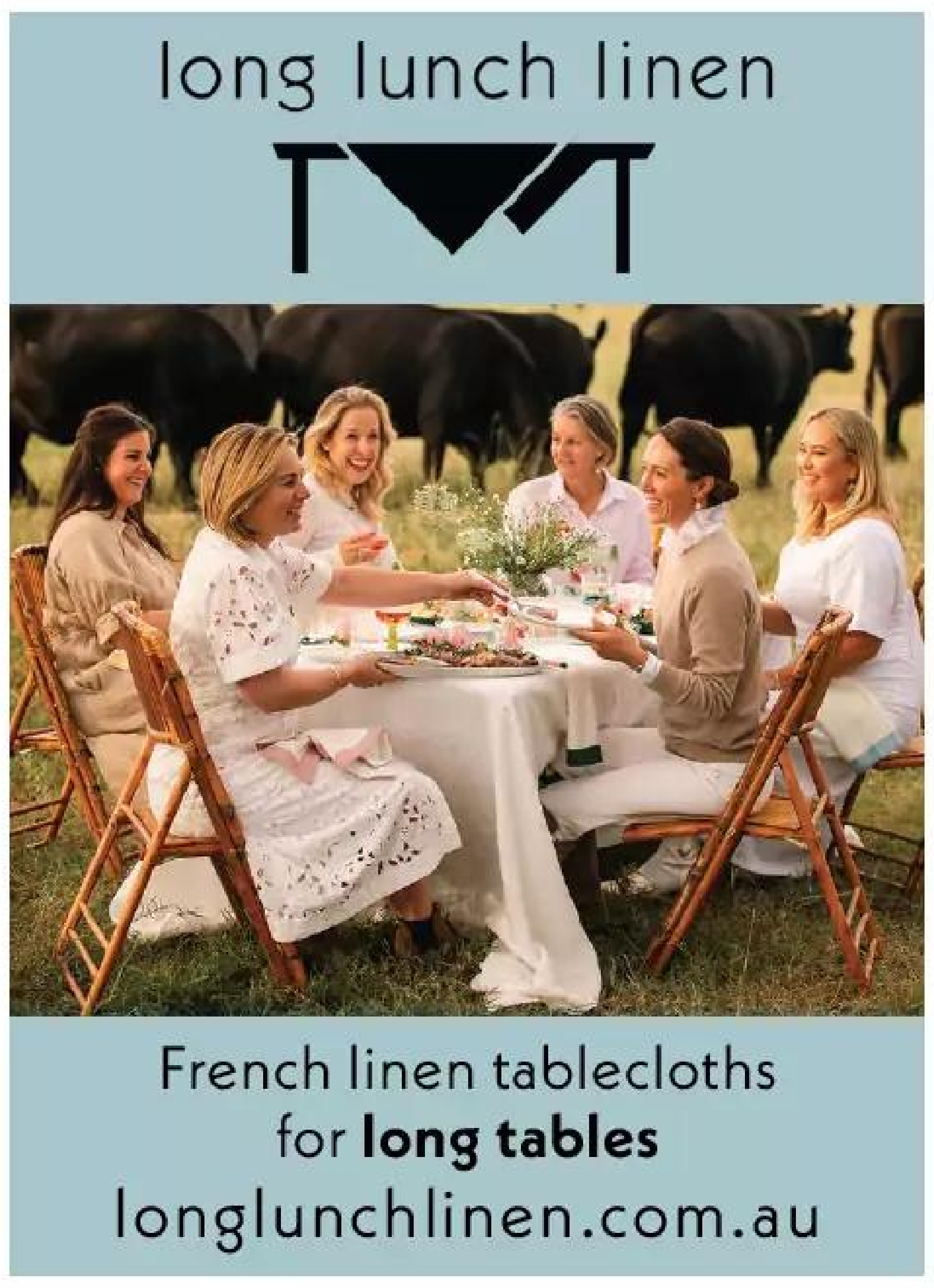
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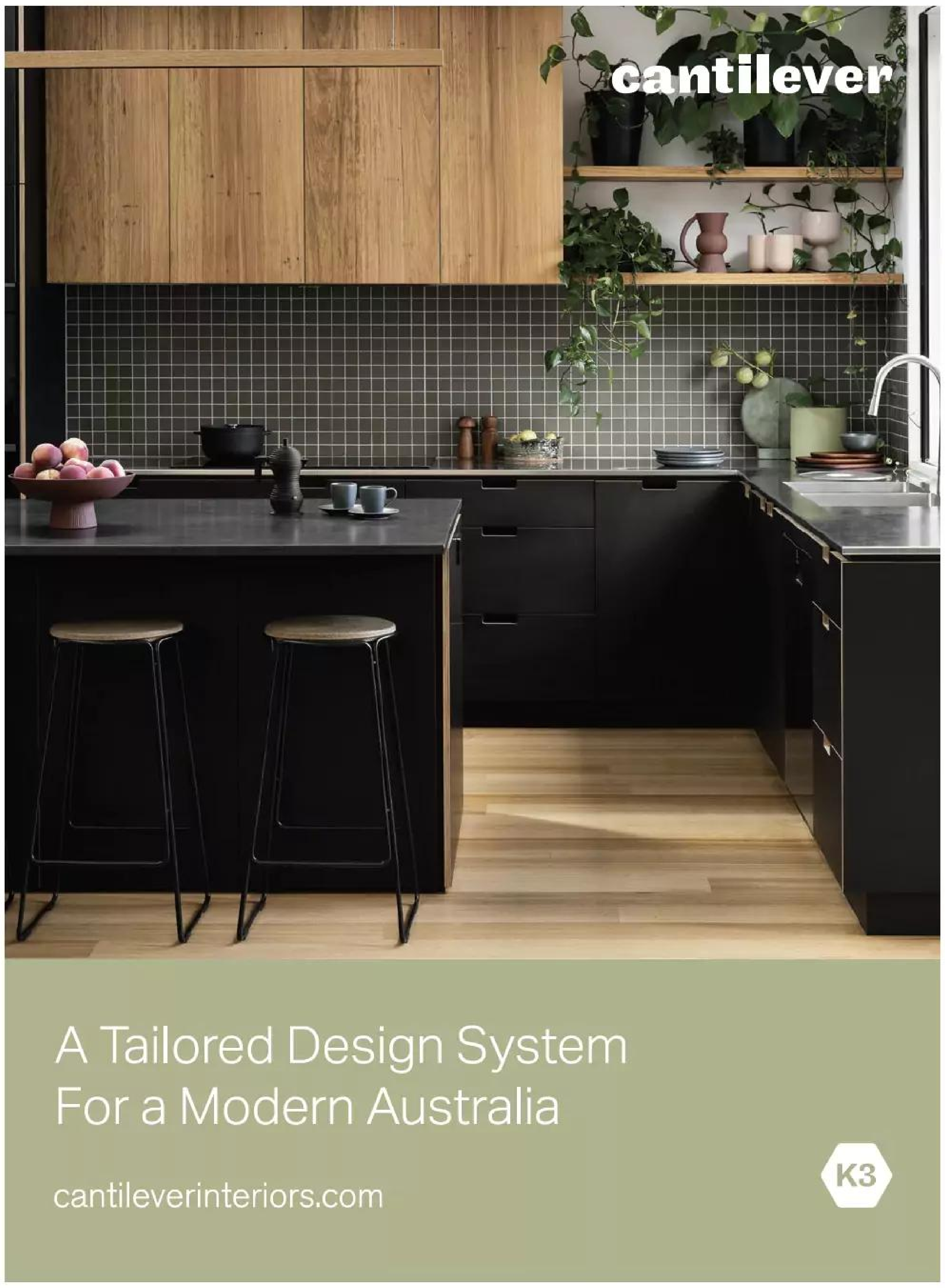
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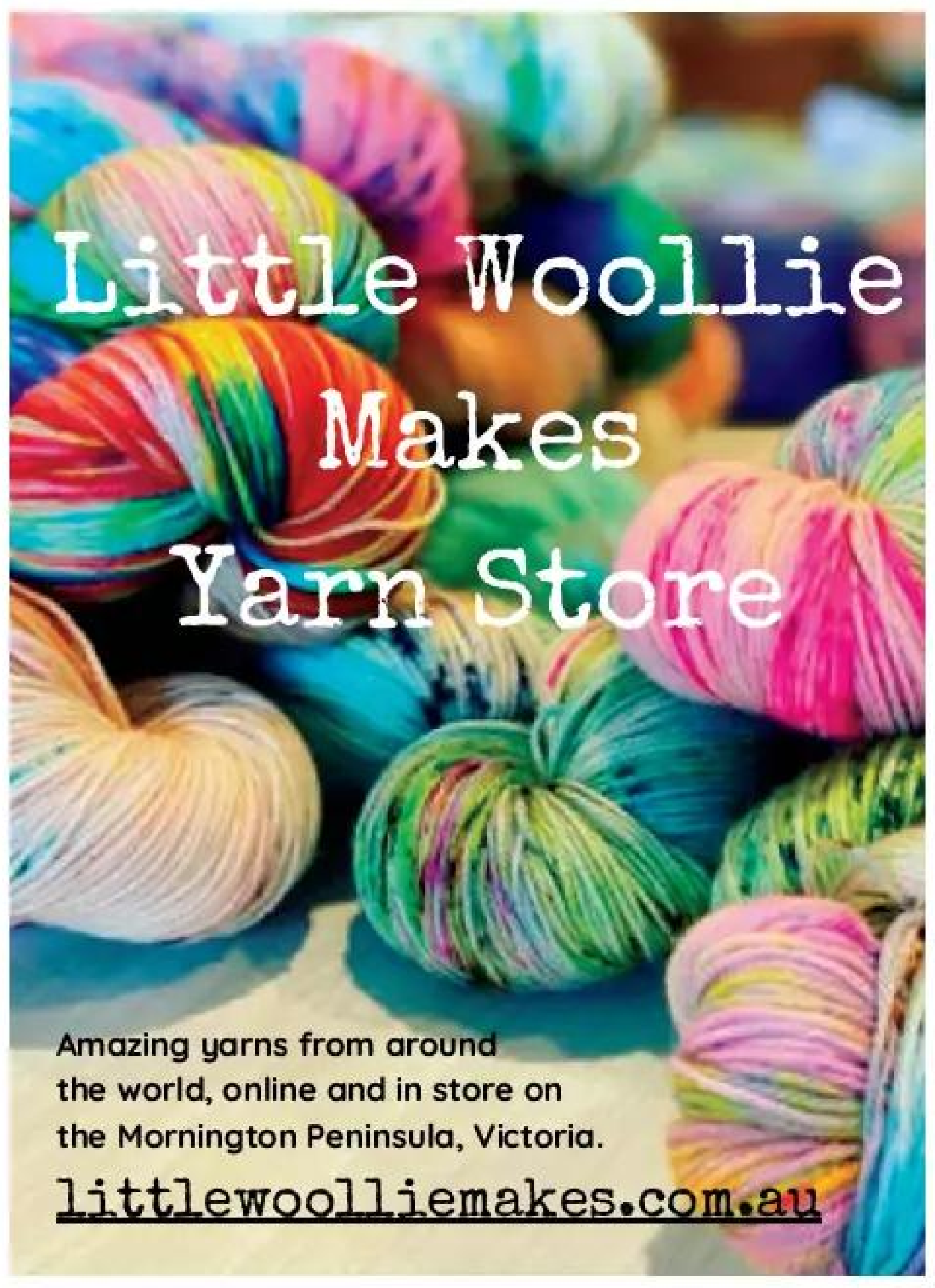

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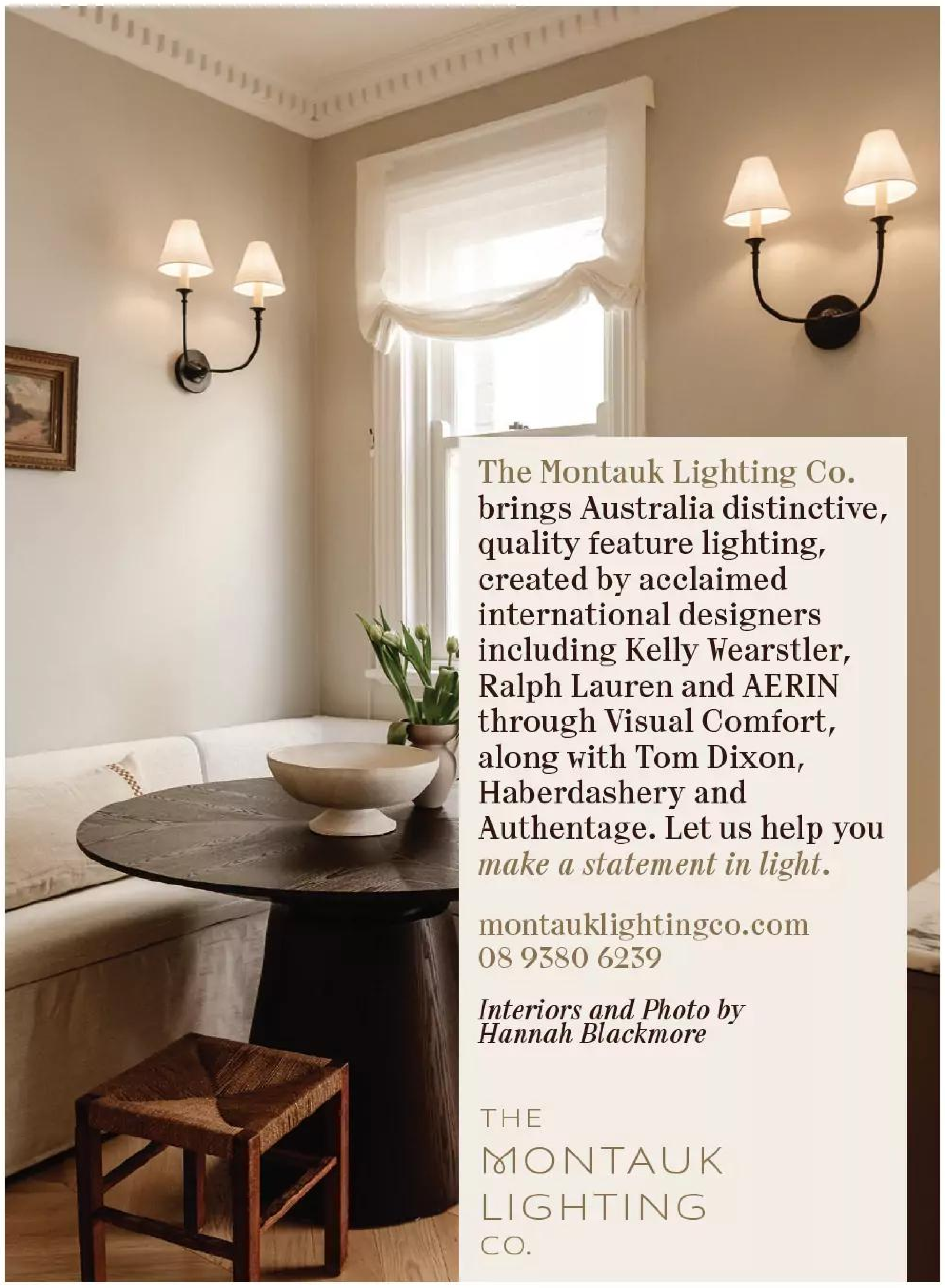

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Dani Pearce

The founder/CEO of gumboot-staple Merry People opens up about the challenges and wins of running her successful business.

PHOTOGRAPHY *Tim O'Connor*

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"I wish I could go back and give that version of Dani a big hug and tell her not to be so hard on herself."

I grew up on a farm, which is where the gumboot idea came from! Our home was a small three-bedroom, white weatherboard. My parents built a red brick 90s home when I was in primary school. They appreciate quality but are not big or frequent spenders – they will use functional things until they break and won't update purely for aesthetics. For example, they still have a lot of the same dishes and pottery from when I was a child (a lot of Bendigo Pottery!).

On an average workday, I do some sort of exercise in the morning before my kids get up, make breakfast for the kids, get ready, have some playtime before getting to the office by 9am. Every day is different, however, generally, the first half of my week has more meetings and I try to keep the second half with fewer meetings for work [which require] deeper concentration. I try to leave the office by 5:30 to be home for dinner to help put the kids to bed. I try to go to bed by 9:30 at the latest.

I get easily distracted so I like things quiet when I'm working. I am fortunate enough to have my own office, so that helps me with concentration.

The biggest challenge in my career? In 2021 my company grew a lot (by 300 per cent). It was also the year I became a mum. I was so happy to have a baby and that Merry People was finally growing (as I started it in 2014.) But it was a lot to navigate at once; the normal postpartum challenges and needing to return to work when my son was 12 weeks old. I was on a very steep learning curve on both fronts. On the outside everyone was celebrating my life and Merry People finally growing, but internally, I had a lot of imposter syndrome, constantly felt like I couldn't keep on top of anything. In my head I wasn't a good enough mum nor a good enough CEO/founder. (It makes me sad to think of that time. I wish I could go back and give that version of Dani a big hug and tell her not to be so hard on herself.) I don't think those thoughts anymore, thank goodness.

I was recognised in 2020 by Inside Retail Australia as one of the 'Top 50 People in E-Commence'. I was number 12 on the list and given an award: 'The one to watch'. I didn't come from a retail background, so to be nominated and get recognition by an industry group was special and gave me a lot more confidence in what I was trying to build.

I genuinely believe you can't be the best version of yourself at work if you don't have the work-life balance right. It is important to fill your cup outside of work with all the things that give you energy and happiness, and I try to model this at Merry People as a leader. I don't work in the evenings and on weekends unless I absolutely need to (for a deadline, for example), I never have notifications on my phone for emails or social media – this helps me be more present with what/who is in front of me, and I don't look at my phone when I come home from work until my kids are down.

I find I get the most creativity and clarity when I am outdoors by myself or when travelling overseas. I think bigger when I am on a plane, I can dig deeper and ask myself more profound questions like, 'what if?' or 'why not?'.

I wouldn't say I am someone who follows the work of a particular artist or architect. Overall I enjoy expressionist-type art. I enjoy art and buildings that are thought-provoking and make me feel something. In terms of my personal style, I have always felt inspired by *Vogue Australia* editor-in-chief Christine Centenera and I take inspiration from stylist Janka Polliani. I also really admire Steve Jobs as a creative, as someone who made a basic utilitarian product in a beautiful way with simple aesthetics. I also took inspiration from [him] not discounting their product/brand.

Currently I am relistening to an audio book, *Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight, the start-up story of Nike. I did read it five years ago, but wanted to re-read with some new business challenges [in mind]. I don't watch a lot of TV, but when I do it is either *Paw Patrol* with my son, or a true crime documentary on Netflix when my kids are asleep (very different!).

My idea of true luxury is a healthy and happy self and family, and having nowhere to be and nothing to do!

Tokyo, Japan, is a travel destination that has really inspired me. I can not wait to go back! I loved the fashion, the food, the creativity and how kind, happy and playful everyone was.

We are already on this pathway, but for me, my future goal for work is trying to make our product as sustainable, while also commercial, as possible. This will be an ongoing journey for us, which I am excited about. **H&G**

Dani Pearce: merrypeople.com.

DANI'S FAVOURITE THINGS
From top Photographic **print** of Mexico by Daniel Luxford, danielluxford.com. 'Billie' **clog** in Bright Olive, $119.95, Merry People. Bird **sculpture** by Dulcie Sharpe, Yarrenyty Arltere Artists. 'Tully' ankle **boots** in Coral, $179.95, Merry People. **OPPOSITE** Dani is pictured at the Merry People HQ in Melbourne.

Hair and make-up by Ally Jenkins.

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